WORLD SOCCER

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The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

NOVEMBER 1972

CHRIS GARLAND Chelsea (left) and BOBBY MOORE West Ham Utd.

WORLD SOCCER
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The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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SCOTS START WELL

SCOTLAND made a satisfactory start in a bid to reach the World Cup finals for the first time since 1958. A 4-1 victory over Denmark should, however, be kept in perspective. The Danes, with a pathetic defence and a reasonable forward line, were mediocre. Yet Scotland have failed at this sort of hurdle before and Tom Docherty can be pleased with the way his lads performed.

It was good to see a British country using a couple of wingers. How England could do with Peter Lorimer. Willie Morgan also did well and remember that the Scots were without the mercurial Eddie Gray.

Not so pleasing was Northern Ireland's reverse in Bulgaria in a match that seems to have been a shambles. George Best sent off and over 50 free-kicks. Best said afterwards that "he will never learn to be kicked" and on this occasion I would tend to sympathise with him.

Best is the obvious target for those who wish to hack and kick. It is a pity that his return to the Irish side, and pre-match promises to play the game of his life, should end on such a note. His Manchester United colleagues, Martin Buchan and Morgan, were also booked playing for Scotland; doubtless there will be some interesting conversation on foreign refereeing in the Old Trafford dressing room.

The World Cup qualifying rounds are now well under way. Next month WORLD SOCCER will provide details of all these matches. In the months ahead, with the co-operation of FIFA, we hope to bring you the line-ups of every World Cup match in the build-up to the 1974 finals.

FRONT COVER

Jackie Charlton, who has continued to be a stalwart member of the Leeds United defence, confronts England and Tottenham Hotspur striker Martin Chivers. Billy Bremner, who had a fine match for Scotland in Copenhagen, is in attendance.

Sekularac goes back to South America

Velibor Vasovic, manager of FC Partizan.

DRAGOSLAV SEKULARAC, the ball-juggling wizard who returned from Colombia in the summer, failed to find a post at home and has gone off once more to South America, this time to Colombia where he will be player-manager of Emelec (Guayaquila).

Meanwhile, unfashionable FK Calik of Zenica brought a little prestige to the country by winning the Mitropa Cup—beating Fiorentina 1—0 (a late goal from centre forward Renic) in the final, after drawing 0—0 in Italy.

In the league, however, matches continue to be marred by a string of incidents; disputed penalties and sendings off being the rule rather than the exception with every week-end bringing its quota.

In the recent Hajduk-Zeljeznicar match two penalties were awarded to the home side who won 3—2 and after the match a Zeljeznicar official told the press . . . "the referee was drunk. He could hardly stand." Referee Strmecki is taking the official and his club to court and the FA are to hold an inquiry.

The Vardar-OFK match produced a penalty (disputed) and two players sent off and the following week-end two more players were dismissed during the Vojvodina—Sutjeska game.

But last time out there was nothing but trouble. At Tuzla where Sloboda played host to FK Sarajevo, two players were sent off and with Sloboda leading 2—1 they were awarded a penalty with only three minutes left.

Protests

The Sarajevo protests were so violent and continuous that the referee abandoned the game and the penalty was never taken. Sutjeska were again involved in trouble the same day when two players were sent off at Split where Hajduk won 3—0 after taking the lead with a disputed penalty.

On the brighter side Red Star have not yet been involved in trouble and lead the way with 13 points, followed by Zeljeznicar (12) and Velez (Mostar) and Radnicki (Nis) on 11. At the bottom of the table Stefan Bobek's men—Dinamo Zagreb still seem jinxed.

Their fans were hoping for a good season but they had to wait 7 games for their first goal and it was not until a week later that they registered their first league success—a 1—0 home win over Vardar Skoplje.

ETAR FAIL TO LAST PACE

ETAR (Tirnova) failed to maintain their early form in Bulgaria, as the Sofia fans expected and have lost two of their last three games. As leaders they went down 2—1 at Varna against Cernomore and then were held to 2—2 at home by CSKA. The following week came disaster—a 6—3 defeat at Pleven where Spartak are in scintillating form at home and now occupy second place while Etar have slipped back into mid-table.

The real surprise of the season so far has been the consistent performances of Lokomotive Plovdiv, who inspired by their captain, the international inside forward Christo Bonev they have stormed to the top of the table after seven games (with 11 points).

Bonev, noted as a midfield general, has recently become a scorer and shares the lead in this respect with Milanov (Akademik), and his club-mate Vassilev, and Petkov of Beroe all of whom have six goals.

The Sofia clubs are not having things at all their own way with Levski, hit by injuries in sixth place, immediately above neighbours Akademik. The latter were promoted in mid-season two years ago by the FA in a hasty re-shuffle and took time to settle down but recently there have been signs that the University team have potential.

First they hammered neighbours Lokomotive 7—0 and last time out, in a thrilling derby battle, they beat last season's Cup and League double winners CSKA by 2—0.

On the same day Levski went down 0—1 away to Beroe and Lokomotive were beaten at home, 1—0 by newly promoted Pernik. The first big clash of the season—CSKA v Levski ended in stalemate.

Denev gave CSKA an early lead and increased it in the second half to 2—0. But Charalampiev hit back for Levski and before the end left winger Mitkov equalised from a penalty.

No doubt Levski will figure prominently once they are back at full strength and CSKA will doubtless take the title once more . . . in the end.

SPARTAK TRNAVA FACE LONG HAUL

by ERIC BATTY

AFTER a poor start—three draws and a defeat in their first five games Czech champions Spartak Trnava have gradually fought their way back to form. With four wins and a draw bringing 15 goals to 4 they have climbed back to third place and are now headed by fellow Slovaks Zilina and Presov.

Their task is a formidable one, however, for Presov have thundered their way through nine opening games with eight victories and a draw to lead Trnava by five clear points.

Slovan Bratislava have fared even worse, scarcely recognisable now as the team that made all the running last season and reached the FA Cup Final.

The key to their problems is the return of the unfit international Jokl and the hope that Jan Capkovic on the left wing will find his shooting boots.

The First Division's top scorer last season with 19 goals, Capkovic has barely got in a shot this season let alone got amongst the goals, except for one occasion.

In the Fairs Cup game at home to Vojvodina (Yugoslavia), Capkovic ran riot, hitting four goals in a row and finishing with a total of five in a surprise 6—0 win. Since then, however, he's gone back into his shell.

In Prague, Sparta are struggling back to form after a shaky start while Dukla hold fifth place despite losing the considerable services of left winger Miroslav Gajdusek who signed for two clubs and got suspended for three months.

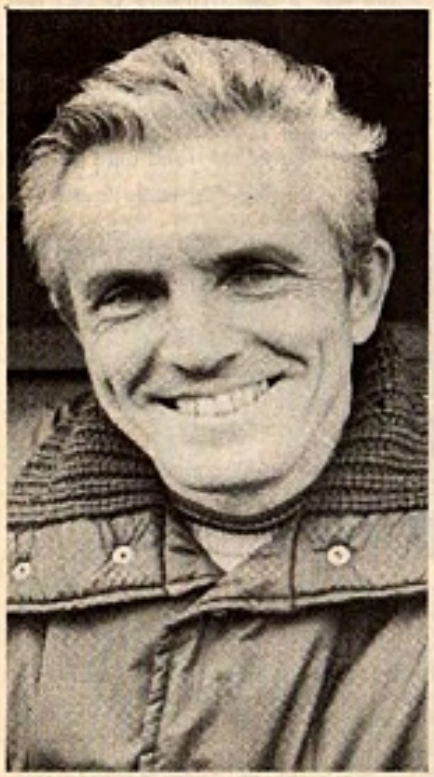
Slavia are really struggling, bottom of the table with only one win and six goals in nine games.

Recently they met Sparta for the 180th time in league games, watched by a crowd of 23,000 but crashed 0—3. This has been the biggest gate of the season so far though the average remains more or less the same.

Lokomotive Kosice, despite a good home record continue to struggle and for the visit of Ostrava were watched by only 730.

Perhaps the most note-worthy feature is the form of VSS Kosice who have done so well in recent seasons. Thus far they have been invincible at home: 5 games, 5 wins and 17 goals. But away they have played 4, lost 4 and have still to score their first goal.

Several changes in East Germany



Bushner, manager of East Germany.

SEVERAL well-known players in East Germany have either retired or stepped down to Division II clubs during the summer with the Army club FC Vorwarts Frankfurt (formerly based in Berlin) making the biggest shuffles.

They have appointed a new boss—Fritz Belger—and parted with two forwards who played big parts in their earlier championship successes, Piepenburg and Begerad.

Promptings

Three top grade internationals from other clubs have also quit including Dieter Erler, once Footballer of the year but frequently in trouble because of his liking for beer.

With 47 full caps, he was at one time East Germany's most honoured player and while he is still rated number two in the list, his club FC Karl Marx Stadt, will miss his promptings considerably.

Cup winners FC Carl Zeiss Jena have also been depleted with the retirement of international forward Roland Ducke and the only other star to go is Klaus Urbanczyk, hero of the Olympic games side in Tokyo.

He played for FC Chemie Halle and first capped in 1961 he was injured in the fire at Eindhoven where Chemie were due to play PSV last season in a Fairs Cup game.

Roland Ducke's younger brother, Peter, is still there for Carl Zeiss and starred at centre forward in the recent 5—0 World Cup win over Finland at Dresden.

He didn't score himself (his 43rd cap) but had a hand in four of the goals, scored by Sparwasser (2), Streich (2) and Hans-Jurgen Kreische, the golden boy from Dynamo Dresden who hit the first in the 47th minute to break the back of the Finns determined resistance.

Top scorer

Only three matches have been played in the championship—due to the Olympics and the clash with Finland but champions 1st FC Magdeburg have taken up where they left off last season, though without top scorer Abraham.

Pommerenke, star of the UEFA Youth teams in 1971 and 1972 is now old enough for league football and hit his first league goal in a 4—0 away win over Lokomotive Leipzig A midfield player of real talent he should develop into a top grade player.

YUGOSLAVIA ON THE ROAD TO RUIN?

SPECIAL REPORT by ERIC BATTY

THE present reputation of the Yugoslav national team—one of the best in Europe—is grossly over optimistic. Either that or the European game generally is even worse than I think it is. Looking at them on their Wembley performance I am quite sure that their manager Vujadin Bojkov is a very worried man, with so many problems he probably doesn't know where to begin.

True, Dzajic might (with a modicum of luck) have scored two goals late in the game with astute, well-placed chip-shots—one of which struck the underside of the bar. Without doubt Petkovic should have put Yugoslavia ahead even earlier after a run a cross from Dzajic had been parried by the diving Shilton but not held. Unmarked as the ball ran loose some eight yards from goal Petkovic shot wide.

Skilful and confident, Dzajic might well have inspired a Wembley win over England, but great player though he is, that would serve only to paper over the retrograde steps the Yugoslavs have taken. No other player in the Yugoslav camp measured up to even 40% of what Dzajic has. He is their match-winner, a national hero. But unique. Assuming that Bojkov did not overlook any other outstanding players for this match then their national game has gone back considerably since the days of Rajko Mitic, Bernard Vukas and Stefan Bobek.

Ingenuity

The introduction of their limited form of state-controlled professionalism has played a part in this deterioration but the greatest single cause is the obvious decision to pursue the English-Russian-German style game in which speed and physical qualities count for more than skill and ingenuity. This is quite clear from the string of players sent off almost weekly in their First Division games and the occasional 'kicking' affairs in which they are involved at international level. Fortunately there was no sign of that at Wembley.

One notable exception was Jovan Acimovic who, on the ball, looked a very good player. Excellent control, the knack of showing himself in support in order to receive easy balls and accurate distribution gave hints that he really could play. But he was so tubby and obviously unfit that all his qualities were virtually useless. He could and should have played a decisive role in the proceedings—but he would only do that if football were the kind of game that can be played standing still.

If only Acimovic had the drive and energy of Dragoslav Stepanovic. Usually a left back, and Yugoslavia's Footballer of the Year last season, Stepanovic surprised me by producing a very creditable performance as a working-attacking midfield. Obviously Bojkov took advantage of the well-known fact that England play without wingers . . . to turn Stepanovic loose, and what a fine choice he proved. In my book, I'd keep him and find a new left back for he was the driving force behind much of what the Yugoslavs produced in attack.

Still on the credit side, there were times when the Yugoslavs pushed the ball around to feet—admittedly without the flair of old—and only in their

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Joe Royle in action for England against Yugoslavia.

Maric, the Yugoslav goalkeeper, makes a fine save.

England fail to impress

IT is a sorry state of affairs when a draw by England against Yugoslavia is hailed, in certain quarters, as a success. Even allowing for the fact that Sir Alf Ramsey was robbed of several players, England should have fared better against mediocre opposition.

Because of Football League Cup replays, Sir Alf was forced to blood several newcomers in place of established internationals. Only two really showed that they have a long future ahead of them in an England shirt.

Joe Royle and Mike Channon impressed but behind them, Mick Mills, Frank Lampard and Jeff Blockley looked inadequate. At least England can be thankful that, as long as Paul Madeley, Emlyn Hughes, Terry Cooper and Roy MacFarland are available, there are few problems at full back and centre half.

Possession

The real question marks remain over the midfield trio and the frontrunners. Colin Bell, Alan Ball and Peter Storey, for all their running, tackling and general workrate are not exactly the most creative bunch.

Ball had one of his better games, inasmuch as he chased and harried the Yugoslavs but, once in possession, his distribution left much to be desired. England suffer because Ball, Bell and Storey are all essentially right-footed players, and they make the fact painfully obvious.

Bell, at least, makes some inventive breaks forward but only once in a blue moon does anyone around him realise what's going on. As a unit, their play is stereotyped and ineffective. The number of *real* chances they created for their strikers could be counted on one hand, perhaps even one finger.

Royle and Channon, both lean and full of positive running, looked good. Royle has tremendous skill; he lays the ball off well, either in the air or on the ground, and is willing to take opponents on. Channon can be pleased with his first appearance in an England jersey; it certainly won't be his last.

by PHILIP RISING

But it would be wrong to think that Royle and Channon are the complete answer. Both would prosper with a fast, direct winger although the likelihood of seeing such a player representing England is a distant one.

Martin Chivers has suffered in the past through poor service. I would be inclined to leave out Rodney Marsh, whose clever ball skill every 30 minutes or so achieves little, and play someone who, by operating along the flanks, can give people like Royle and Chivers the bullets to fire.

Tactical

Most of the old guard are likely to return for the World Cup match, and rightly so. What is needed is not so much new players as a different tactical approach by Sir Alf and England.

Gordon Banks, if fit, or Peter Shilton will face Wales. Paul Madeley and Emlyn Hughes (how England missed him against Yugoslavia) should be the full backs: McFarland must return at centre half.

Then what? I would be inclined to include Norman Hunter alongside McFarland and release Moore to play in midfield, at least for one game to see how he fares. One quality he possesses which so many others seem to lack is the ability to pass a ball thoughtfully and accurately. England, as a team, still give the ball away too often.

And Moore can kick with either foot, which would give a new dimension to England's mid-field. Ball, Bell, and Storey are so predictable, especially when progressing down the left flank.

Who to play with Moore? Ball, with instructions to operate at outside right in addition to midfield; similar to the role he used to adopt in 1966. He has the skill to beat full backs, particularly on the outside, and can cross the ball well enough. Bell deserves to stay although his international form remains disappointing.

I don't think Kevin Keegan, for all his vitality and energy, is yet a great player but he could bring a breath of fresh air to England's rather staid outfit. He's sharp, very quick, a taker and creator of chances.

Royle, after his display against Wales, certainly deserves another chance: perhaps with Chivers who, despite his lack of goals for Tottenham, should play.

BOLD PLAN FROM
. . . BUT WOULD

MR BRIAN CLOUGH has now been launched in a new column for the unsuspecting readers of a prominent Sunday newspaper, and even if the words are not actually his own, you can be sure that the sentiments are his. How gratifying, therefore, to hear that Brian wants England to win the next World Cup, and that he wants the First Division clubs to sacrifice their own interests to achieve this aim.

As I understand it, Clough's bold plan is to scrap the FA Cup, the Football League Cup and all those other meaningless competitions promoting petrol and beer (not that one can distinguish the commodities these days) in order to finish the 1973-74 domestic season several months earlier than usual. Grudgingly he would allow just one club to continue to compete in each of the three major European competitions, but with that exception, club football applies the brakes and comes to a juddering halt in the spring. In that way, explains Brian, Sir Alf Ramsey will have not 22 players to choose from, but 2,000.

No doubt Sir Alf read his copy of the newspaper (if he takes it, which I suspect he does) and had his first good word to say for the Derby manager over breakfast for many a long year; while Alan Hardaker was probably on the telephone to his newsagent the following morning telling him to deliver something else on Sundays in future. For if ever a plan was anathema to the Football League, this is the one.

Mr Hardaker probably, although not positively, would also like England to win the world championship in West Germany in two years time, because he could hardly fail to recognise the impetus given to attendances by the 1966 competition and England's victory at Wembley. But he would argue, you can be sure, that any such victory was achieved without any major change in the club programme, and that a strong national league is of prime importance to the health of football in every country. So he would fight tooth and nail to prevent any reduction in fixtures at a time when his members desperately need extra revenue to counteract falling gates and spiralling transfer fees.

Sir Alf Ramsey, with Dr. Stevens, the England doctor.

Reactionary

By a strange irony, the League would probably find themselves allied to the reactionary members of the FA Council, who would, and probably have, cast their eyes to the heavens at the thought of halting their precious cup competition, which not even the forces of Hindenberg and Hitler could put aside for long. There would, one fancies, be about as much support for Brian Clough's plan among clubs and governing bodies as there would be for a 100 per cent rise in income tax among the public at large.

Clough does provide for football continuing in the lower divisions, but he argues that the 22 First Division clubs ought to be able to exist for those few extra months without any special subsidy. A few club treasurers would tell you plainly that far from that being the case, their clubs would join the ranks of the Aceringtons and the Gateshead if they had to meet their overheads without any revenue from matches.

Which is why the Football League, being in some senses a democratic body, and reflecting the wishes of a few of its members would never commit financial suicide by voting to

OM CLOUGH D IT WORK?

suspend one or more of the competitions on which they have come to regard as a financial life-line. The Football Association might, in some blind moment of patriotism, agree to suspend the FA Cup—but even if they too made such a remarkable decision, its effect, in isolation, would be negligible.

This is not to say that Brian Clough's line of thought is a misguided one. You have only to look at the Brazilians, winners of the World Cup on three of the last four occasions. Their teams have spent a minimum of three months together as a unit, in at least one case, as long as six months. But such a system has the full backing of the politically controlled Brazilian FA, whose masters realise that success at soccer is an opium for the masses, helping to keep an unpopular government in power.

Successful

Moreover, Mr Hardaker would doubtless emphasise, Brazilian club football in strict international terms, has been far less successful. Indeed despite the growth in internal air travel, they still do not have a proper national league. The same conclusion could be reached about the other outstanding team in post-war years, the Hungarian side of the 1950s. Their superb teamwork was achieved largely by drafting their players into two clubs, Honved and Red Banner. Partly, if not largely as a result, the Hungarian League has become a spent force.

Plainly, Brian Clough's revolutionary proposals are too drastic to find any general approval. But surely some move can be made to start the season earlier than usual, perhaps to cut the entry into Europe by a significant percentage, and to get the players together two months before the finals begin. Otherwise England will have little hope of making a major impact, and her prestige in international terms will drop still further.

Unfortunately, Mr Clough's crusading zeal rings a little hollow when one considers Derby County's contribution to the international side over the past few months. The appearance of Roy McFarland in a league match so soon after he had cried off England's vital European championship game against West Germany, and the decision of Colin Todd not to go on the Under-23 tour, do not suggest that patriotism is a mover of men at Derby. If Brian Clough is to convince the doubting Thomases of League and Association, he must first put his own house in order.

. . . and the wives came too

When Anderlecht made arrangements for their second round European Cup-tie against Spartak Trnava, the club secretary found himself doing everything in duplicate. One plane for the players, one hotel for the players . . . and one plane and a separate hotel for their wives.

Like most Belgian sides, Anderlecht do not allow wives to accompany their husbands on such occasions, but Madame Kessler, wife of the club manager, decided to take matters into her own hands. When the team flew to Copenhagen for their first round tie, she organised a separate trip for all the players' wives, with the exception of Mrs Rensenbrinck, who was on holiday with her parents in Holland, and Mrs Ejderstedt, whose second child was too young to leave.

And Madame Kessler kept the whole trip a secret from her husband and his team until after the match, when they descended on them halfway through a promising stag night. It says much for Madame Kessler's persuasive talents that the whole venture was repeated again for Anderlecht's next trip . . .

Facchetti still in dispute

One dispute that must surely be settled before long if Italy are to emulate their 1970 feat and reach the final of the World Cup is the acrimonious argument between full-back Giacinto Facchetti, and the team manager Ferruccio Valcareggi. Trouble started when Italy were knocked out of the European Championship by Belgium, and Valcareggi publicly criticized Facchetti for not obeying his instructions to keep a close eye on the Belgian winger, Semmeling.

Facchetti kept a dignified silence, but he was not selected for Italy's following two games, friendly matches against Rumania in Bucharest and Bulgaria in Sofia. It was the manner of it all that annoyed him.

Appearance

"If Valcareggi had told me I was too old, at 30, I would have doubted him, but I would have accepted it, because that's life. But I didn't get a letter from him, not even a telephone call. It was as though I had never existed, as far as the national team were concerned. Perhaps I didn't play well against Belgium, but as 60 internationals, you would have thought I would have been given another chance. You give much more of a chance to someone making his first appearance.

"Each time since the Belgium match I've listened to the radio, hoping . . . well, frankly, hoping to hear my name. I wasn't surprised when they put him in against Yugoslavia, in another friendly. But when he was ruled out of the World Cup game against Luxemburg, and they put my Inter team-mate Bellugi in his place, I simply couldn't understand it.

Displaced

"Valcareggi has not said anything to me, but he told some journalists that he thought I might be offended to be called up because another player was injured. But until he named Bellugi, I felt I was the man in possession, momentarily displaced.

"As long as Valcareggi is going to behave this way, I've given up the idea of playing for Italy. After all, it was an important part of my life, but not the whole of it. Now I shall concentrate on playing for Inter, and spend more time with my family and on my insurance business."

ROGER MACDONALD'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

Ferenc Puskas, training with the Panathinaikos players.

Panathinaikos replay

PANATHINAIKOS were shattered by the events of the second leg of their European Cup tie with CSKA Sofia. Having won 2—1 which put them 3—3 on aggregate with their opponents, they were going through the penalty kick sequence when the Russian referee Lipatov called a halt and awarded the tie to the Bulgarians.

At that stage Panathinaikos had taken four kicks and missed two, CSKA had taken three and scored from each one. At first it seemed that the referee had called it off because it was impossible for Panathinaikos to catch up with only one kick remaining. Later, however, it transpired that the official had thought that CSKA had scored four times. In either case he was wrong of course.

Protested

Panathinaikos protested to the UEFA authorities and the executive control commission which sat later decided on the evidence that a miscarriage of justice had been carried out and ordered the second leg to be replayed.

Now the only aggrieved people in the situation are the Bulgarians who must now be at a considerable disadvantage for the replay, having done everything that was expected of them in the second leg.

On the domestic front the League leaders are PAOK Salonika who were the only 100 per cent club after four matches. But encouraged by their second chance with CSKA in Europe and the possibility of a tie with Ajax Amsterdam whom they lost to in the 1971 European Cup Final, Panathinaikos could well catch up.

One of Ferenc Puskas' club's new signings the Argentinian Juan Veron is creating a good impression on the left wing. His nickname of "The Ugly One" which he had in Argentina has not yet appeared to rear its head.

EUSEBIO HITS FOUR

AFTER five weeks of the new season, it seems that the resting place of the Portuguese championship is likely to remain at the picturesque Estadio da Luz at Estoril. For although Benfica have opened only a two point gap at the top of the table, their fifth victory was the most significant.

Having beaten their closest rivals Sporting Lisbon 4—1 they are entitled to feel confident about the remainder of the season. And certainly the form shown by Eusebio, now a 30 year old in the semi-veteran class, is reassuring to the champions. In fact if the Black Panther continues in his present scoring mood he could well set up a new record.

After five games Eusebio's performance reads 13 goals including two hat-tricks and all four goals in the match with Sporting. The success against Sporting was all the more remarkable for Benfica as they had played in a tournament in Angola earlier in the same week!

Even so he has scored only half of the total number of Benfica League goals and at their rate of scoring they could set up a new record of goals in the Portuguese championship.

As far as Eusebio is concerned he needs to average only a little over one a match for the rest of the season to beat his previous best total of 42 goals in the 1967-68 season.

Although Benfica's great win took precedence over all other news that week the name of one of the most famous of old Portuguese players cropped up in the surprise win of Tomar against Vitoria Setubal—Aguas the only scorer. But the old Benfica star it was not, this one is his nephew.

Personal Opinion by LESLIE VERNON

Poverty for some yet transfer fees spiral

"JUDGE thyself first before thou judge others," says the Bible, but if it doesn't, it ought to. In any case, this is my monthly message to club managers, legislators, and the pundits who voice their opinions about the topical problem of falling attendances. According to the ostrich-like League Secretary, Alan Hardaker, there is no truth in the matter, it is only a rumour put about by the alarmists who actually count the number of people watching football each week, and compare the figures with that of the previous seasons.

Mr. Hardaker blames the press for over-emphasising a temporary set-back, and says that propaganda of this kind only keeps people at home. In ancient times, they used to punish the messengers of bad news, as though they were the cause of the defeat in battle, not merely the informants of it.

The media might have indeed over-played this issue, however serious. Continuous picture-probes, market research etc., can only result in artificial conclusions and some luke-warm trend-followers might decide that it is no longer the "in" thing to be seen at football matches. Yet the "Press" (to use this mythical word for an infinite variety of methods and styles of journalism) hardly ever gets any credit for the immense amount of good work it does for the game.

Gratitude

These image-makers create an idol out of a long-haired youth who scores a couple of goals for some obscure Third or Fourth Division club. When a misguided manager in a panicky situation pays a king's ransom for him, no words of gratitude go to the local press. The same applies to the top stars, whose fame and market value is considerably enhanced by favourable publicity.

The same players' indiscretions especially off the field are never mentioned in print. All confidences are honoured, but the downright rudeness of many managers is put down as understandable stress condition after a game, and the superlatives are trotted out so regularly that words like "great", "brilliant" have lost their meanings.

Of course, it is not a one-way altruistic operation. The journalist earns his living from football and does not often bite the hand that feeds him. It is, therefore, arrant nonsense to blame the press for the current disenchantment with the game.

Ramsey's infamous remark that "the journalists need the England team, but the England team don't need them", typifies an attitude which is not only unfair but is totally incomprehensible. No wonder that after the defeats against W. Germany and N. Ireland, many English sports writers were delighted, and shouts of "He'll need us now" could be heard in the Wembley press box.

The gate figures of the recent England v. Yugoslavia game shows what an unsympathetic press can do, and I hope that not only the national team manager, but others in a similar position on club level, have got the message.

It must be stated in all fairness that Mr. Hardaker does appreciate what a great job the football writers do for popularising the League Cup, and he thanks us most sincerely every year for the help given. As for television, it has been blamed for obesity, the death of good conversation, the divorce rate, bad language, the Irish problem, house-breaking methods, the loss of the Empire (British and Finsbury), and now it is blamed for falling attendances at football matches.

Perhaps a short conversation between myself and the sports editor of a foreign newspaper illustrates the idiocy of this particular red herring. After telexing my story about the suggested causes for the drop in attendances, he telephoned me and asked whether there is any difference between television coverage of football this season and the last.

"No," I said, "it has been the same for the last five years". "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure". "That just doesn't make sense. If we use it, we must say that there is either more television or it is different." "Don't use it".

Complaint

I concluded the fruitless argument, sensing that he was obviously right. If TV didn't keep people away from the grounds during the last few seasons, why should it do so now? My only complaint is that we do not have the right kind of football television in this country. During the week when the Ajax v. Independiente match was played, the B.B.C. showed the Luton v. Burnley clash, and London Weekend featured Q.P.R. and Cardiff.

This is not the company's fault. They are bound by agreements forced on them by the F.A. and F.L. The Ajax game was shown live in 17 European countries, so were the World Cup qualifyers, France against Russia and Italy against Switzerland. This is the kind of football we should see on our screens, and then perhaps the claim that people can see the best on TV (made by its detractors) would be true.

The guilty parties responsible for the depressing gate figures are the managers and directors of the clubs. They put up the prices of admission irrespective of the entertainment offered. It is ludicrous to pay the same price for watching Stockport v. Crewe as Liverpool v. West Ham. In the theatre, the standing of the performers influences the ticket prices, in the movies, the location of the cinema.

The entrance fee must be graded per division and the maximum for standing on the dreadfully uncomfortable terraces shouldn't be more than it was last season. It is hard to convince the supporters that football is on the bread-line when £200,000 is splashed out for a Third Division player and Q.P.R. (whose manager blames TV) have just bought Stan Bowles for a cool £110,000.

There is too much football, but once again it is the greedy club officials who agree to enter into any tinpot competition as long as there is a few bob to be made.

Stereotyped

Finally, let's look at the football served up week after week. It is usually dull, stereotyped, defensive, unimaginative, and full of elementary mistakes. If a team put three forwards up they feel that they are terribly brave and enterprising.

Away from home there is usually a couple of strikers on view, the rest clutter up the middle of the pitch or stay well back in defence. It is like watching Spassky and Fischer on a bad day, and in any case football should not resemble a chess game with "set-pieces" and tactical ploys sucking the life-blood out of the proceedings.

High admission prices, lack of interesting personalities, and an over-physical, boring type of football—these are the real reasons behind the slump. Managers! Stop blaming the press, TV, the motor car, my Aunt Fanny and everyone else, rather put your own house in order.

REFEREEING MUST BE... STANDARDISED

THERE have, from the first, been many, often valid, criticisms of what has been called the English Refereeing Revolution. It was implemented, last season, with great haste, and with no consultation at all of clubs and players, thus causing the worst possible reception and the maximum resentment. Quite quickly, it became clear to the more skilful players, such as a delighted George Best, that in fact it was a splendid innovation, which protected them from the thuggery to which they had been increasingly subjected, which contributed to the freer flowing, the higher skills and pleasures of the game. Referees may have over-reacted, may have been given too little scope and latitude for personal initiative; but it was undeniable that, in the recent past, they had been far too lenient.

The trouble was that the alleged Revolution, far from being an equivalent of the Maoist concept of permanent revolution, sputtered out within a few months. By the end of last season, the kickers were kicking again with relative impunity, and Sir Alf Ramsey put the cap on it with his deplorable preference for the hard men in his England team, culminating in that disgraceful Scotland v. England international at Hampden, with a first half of brutality and virtual carnage.

This season, off we have gone again with a new twist to the Revolution; now, all offences are graduated on a points basis, with twelve penalty points leading to an automatic suspension, and any sending off bringing in its wake a suspension for three matches. This is in some sense a compromise between the authorities and the clubs, an attempt to obviate a mass of appeals by players against their sentences, with the resultant delay and chaos. Yet it has from the first seemed to be absurdly over simplified. Just as you cannot turn a bad, weak referee into a good referee by forcing him automatically to "book" players for certain types of foul, so you cannot hope to improve discipline without carefully distinguishing between the kinds of foul, and their gravity.

True, the points system also represents an attempt to do this, to avoid the obvious fiasco and injustice of cautioning a player for what might be a vicious foul and what might be the relatively unimportant offence of deliberately handling the ball, or disputing a referee's decision (unimportant, at least, by comparison with causing actual bodily harm to an opponent). The trouble with the points system is, above all, that it does not differentiate sufficiently between types and kinds of foul, in terms of a difference in points. Moreover, some of the grossest and most serious offences do not even figure in the points table at all; perhaps because the Football League, in their wisdom or ingenuousness, believe that they will result in automatic expulsion.

Ridiculous

The rule that any and every sending off be punished by a three match suspension is ridiculous, since it implies that all expulsions are as grave as one another. Manifestly this is rubbish. Geoff Hurst, for example, was sent off this season at Ipswich for twice arguing with the referee. On the first occasion he appears to have sworn; on the second, according to his own version, he simply asked the referee why he didn't send off or caution Jefferson, the Ipswich defender, who had handled the ball three times. I am not making out a plaintive case for Hurst; even his manager, Tony Waddington, did not do that. But cannot it for a single moment be claimed that his offence was remotely as serious as that of, say, Wyn Davies, sent off the field in the Manchester City versus Liverpool match for butting Larry Lloyd of Liverpool in the face?

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The Ajax players parade with the World Club Championship trophy after they had beaten Independiente of Argentina.

So much, however, for the deficiencies of the system. I am more concerned here with its positive attributes, and the lesson that can be learned from them by windy and ineffectual UEFA.

The opening of this season's three European cup competitions brought us the mandatory blast of hot air from UEFA, the inevitable, undefined threats to punish violent behaviour by players or crowds. But when the tournaments began, the first match that I went to, played at the Baseball Ground between Derby County and Zeljeznicar, Sarajevo.

Thanks to the immense and laudable restraint of the Derby players, the game did not degenerate into a battle. M. Anton Bucneli, the Swiss refereeing, had no instructions from UEFA comparable to those the Football League have given our referees. In consequence, though he cautioned two Yugoslav players and, by and large, whistled for the fouls that were committed, he never began to take control of the game, or to stamp out the persistent and deliberate fouls by the Yugoslav defenders. Indeed, the worst offenders among them were not booked at all.

The contrast from watching, till that point of the season, nothing but matches played by English League clubs was a stark and significant one. By contrast with the English referees, M. Bucheli seemed dangerously permissive, and we saw so clearly that giving free kicks is not enough; that rough, dirty players must be shown that *any* violent play leads immediately to a caution, that *any* repetition will bring expulsion. That is what vague and windy UEFA should be concentrating on, and implementing, instead of arriving perpetually too late on the scene of the crime, and hurriedly carpentering together some form of appropriate punishment. The examples of Munchengladbach and Barcelona are all too fresh in our minds.

Punched

"Now he tells us," seemed the only appropriate response when Stefan Kovacs, the Rumanian manager of Ajax, announced that so far as the Intercontinental Championship was concerned, the game was not worth the candle. Did he really have to take his team to Buenos Aires to be kicked and punched, to find that out? Did he really have to expose Cruyff to the inevitability of being viciously kicked?

Kovacs, who is a shrewd and talented man, did not beat about the bush when discussing what prompted his team to embark on their suicidal mission. "Last season," he said, "we didn't want to play the Final against the Uruguayans. If we accepted this time, it was to pay homage to the memory of Gustav Wiedekehr, who before his death made us promise to take part in the intercontinental tournament this time. And then there were certainly financial reasons which incited the players to hurl themselves into this adventure."

Indeed there were, and as M. Kovacs is a Rumanian and Rumanians are pretty shrewd and practical people, he will forgive me for suggesting that the second reason, that of filthy lucre, was the only one which carried any weight at all, which moved the Ajax players to agitate against and overrule the previous, wise decision of their directors. Seldom can greed and folly have been so promptly punished.

Travesty

If I may descend once again on the ineffable UEFA, it is simply to plead that they will now see the light of reason, and disassociate themselves from this sombre travesty of sport. Last season, as we know, the act usually went so far as to utter feeble threats to punish Ajax, then to push Panathinaikos into the ring in their stead. Tomaras, of Panathinaikos, had his leg broken with a deliberate kick.

Any more for the 1978 World Cup, in Argentina? Can you seriously imagine the leading European clubs releasing their star players under present circumstances along the River Plate?

News from France
by ANDRE DUCLOS

Phelipon tempted back as coach to Bordeaux

IF there was ever a match with significant undertones, it was that which brought together Bordeaux and Paris F.C. At the end of last season, Pierre Phelipon, the manager of Paris St. Germain, as the club then was, was sacked, and replaced by Louis Hon, the old French international half-back. Phelipon was extremely bitter. He would never, he said, believe in anybody again, after having heard that no fewer than four other managers had applied for his job. "After all I had to endure at Paris St. Germain," he said, "I thought I would never again take a managerial job in football." Then Andre Gerard, the coach to Bordeaux, decided to retire, Phelipon was approached and he accepted. He had been particularly distressed by the fact that he had just spent 20 million francs on an apartment at St. Germain. But, he said wryly, the experience had taught him something: "To mistrust everything and everybody including my best friend."

So to the meeting between the two clubs, at Bordeaux. The poetic ending would, I suppose, have been a thumping win for Bordeaux, but it did not materialise. Instead, the match was won 1-0 by Paris.

This came a week after Paris had been beaten at home, in highly auspicious circumstances, by the champions, Olympique Marseilles; who themselves, three days later, would bring off the splendid feat of beating mighty Juventus on the virtually neutral ground of Lyon, without Josip Skoblar.

Harsh free kick

I use the word auspicious because, although Paris was beaten 3-1 by Marseilles, the game attracted the immense crowd, for France of 39,021 spectators. Now who can say that the capital, so long deprived of a League club, does not want football? Moreover, Paris seem to have won the approval of their fans; even though they were defeated—somewhat unluckily, a harsh free kick turning the match—by Marseilles, their support was formidable. There was none of the old tendency of the spectators to back the visiting team, because they were dissatisfied with the performance of Racing Club de Paris, the old incumbents. Still, it was just as well for their morale and their future that Paris F.C. could at once follow that unfortunate defeat with a win down in the Gironde.

Famous Argentinian internationals will be getting together in Monaco, where Ruben Bravo, the international centre-forward who played against England at Wembley in 1951, is to be joined by the latest captain of Argentina and Independiente, Omar Pastoriza. Quite how Pastoriza will adjust to the "village" atmosphere of football in Monaco, with its jewel of a stadium and minuscule crowds, after the sound and the fury of River Plate football, remains to be seen.

Technically adroit

One foreign player who has adjusted very nicely indeed to football on the Cote d'Azur is Dick Van Dijk, who is doing so well at Nice, after a rather unpromising beginning, that comparisons are already being made with the great Franco-Dutch players of the past, men such as Rijvers and Appel, men solidly built but technically adroit, with a killing shot; like Van Dijk himself. His first appearance, in a friendly, was ill augured. He looked and was overweight and seemed too eager to get rid of the ball. But in training camp the surplus kilos soon disappeared, and when Nice played their friendly against his old club, Ajax, all comparisons with Suurendonk—a failure along the coast at Monaco, after Ajax sold him last season—were abandoned. Indeed, Nice have a splendid pair of foreign forwards in Van Dijk and the excellent Swede, the blond Leif Eriksson.

Much less happy are the relations between Salif Keita, so prolific a scorer these last few seasons, and his former club, Saint Etienne. The club was fined and Keita given a six-month suspension for signing a private and "illegal" contract. Keita went back to his native Mali, then suddenly turned up at the Saint Etienne stadium and started training. This led to a bitter confrontation with the volatile Chairman of Saint Etienne, M. Roger Rocher, which looked at one point as if it might even lead to blows. It did not, though Keita begged Rocher to go ahead and hit him; that was all it wanted! By the time you read this, I don't doubt that Keita will be well on the way to fixing up with another club.

The same applies to the young French international defender from Guadeloupe, Marius Tresor. He began, most surprisingly, playing for his club Ajaccio of Corsica again, hard on the heels of a bitter public declaration in which he swore he would rather give up the game than kick another ball for them, alleging that he had been tricked into signing an inequitable nine-year contract. Then he was mollified; reportedly by a promise that he would be sold. Paris F.C. offered 100 million francs for him, during the summer; but it seems quite sound thinking to me that they should spend money to strengthen their team, in its first, vital and delicate, season at the splendid new Parc des Princes. If they fail now, if they lose their willing and large support now, they may never have the chance to recover.

In the National League, or second division, Nigel Page-Jones, the Gloucestershire man, is continuing to play, and play well, in the Brest back four. At the end of last season, he was voted into the all Second Division team, unofficially chosen and published in the leading weekly magazine, *France Football*.

One Argentinian transfer which emphatically did not come off was that of the Huracan forward from Buenos Aires, Babington. Valenciennes went after Brindisi, another of Huracan's international stars, brought him to France, but couldn't ultimately sign him. They were then led by Huracan into taking an interest in Babington, whereupon an astonishing chain of events was set in motion, with supposed emissaries to Buenos Aires disappearing at the airport and staying in France, and the ultimate resignation of the Valenciennes' President, M. Bacharzina, when he realised he had been duped; that the transfer of Babington, plus salary, would cost his club 267 million francs.

Gregory Tesser interview with Alan Gowling (Huddersfield Town)

'I THINK THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN ANOTHER YEAR TO CONSOLIDATE'

TESSER: Why did you join Second Division Huddersfield, when you had the chance to remain in the First Division by signing for Crystal Palace?

GOWLING: Really it was a matter of staying up north because I have never looked forward to the prospect of playing in London. But more important than this is that the Huddersfield set-up is undoubtedly on the same level as some First Division clubs.

TESSER: How upset were you when you found out that Manchester United were going to release you?

Disappointed

GOWLING: Well, when I was in and out of the side regularly last season, I knew that it would be something I had to face. However, I think that I could have been given another year or so to consolidate myself at Old Trafford, yet when the crunch came I was not at all disappointed.

TESSER: How do you think the move will affect your career in general?

GOWLING: I suppose the security of being in the first team will be one advantage, but no player is indispensable.

TESSER: Do you still have ambitions of playing for England?

GOWLING: Obviously. Every professional footballer has at least one basic aim. Playing for the England under-23 team was my first, and now of course I hope to gain a full England "cap".

TESSER: As you know, Alan, Huddersfield have always lived under the shadow of Leeds United. Do you think therefore that you have the potential to become a really established First Division club?

GOWLING: Yes. Don Revie's men started in a similar fashion. They were a young outfit, and when promotion eventually came, their confidence grew with experience playing in the top flight. It could be that Huddersfield gained promotion too early.

TESSER: Your first appearance for Manchester United's first team was a real success. How do you evaluate the word success?

GOWLING: In my opinion, a player must take each game as it comes. I have personally never felt the need to fall back on any one particular game. After all you cannot live on memories alone.

TESSER: Why do you think that Manchester United flopped so badly last season after heading the First Division table for several weeks by five points?

Disintegrated

GOWLING: This is certainly a difficult question to answer. Basically during the second half of the season, our competitive outlook disintegrated completely. But I don't think I should expand on this as some people might get the wrong idea.

TESSER: When you joined Manchester United, you had the unique experience of having to play football and study hard for your degrees. How did you cope with this situation?

GOWLING: There were quite a few snags, but I think my home life was hit more than my performances for United.

TESSER: Were you pleased when Frank O'Farrell moved you to midfield?

GOWLING: I certainly relish playing in midfield as I have always felt it is my best position.

TESSER: Strikers always seem to receive much more publicity than either defenders or linkmen. Don't you miss the glamour of players such as George Best?

GOWLING: No. I am not the sort of person who craves for National limelight. Just so long as I continue to play well is all that matters.

Criticised

TESSER: The Second Division has been criticised during recent years for its lack of class. What is your view of Second Division soccer at the present time?

GOWLING: I think it is an extremely hard League, especially when you consider that we have already played sides of the calibre of Aston Villa, Blackpool and Queen's Park Rangers. In my view any one of these three clubs would grace the First Division.

TESSER: At Huddersfield you will be more of a striker again. How do you feel about this?

GOWLING: Our manager Ian Greaves informed me at the beginning of the season that my role as a striker would be completely different from what it was at Manchester United. And I hope that I can deal with the change successfully.

Ajax lose and the reason—too much football!

from JOHN SPARROW

IF such an institution as a Dutch bookie existed, it is a sure bet the odds would have been against Ajax losing the early season encounter with Feyenoord. And only a fool or a compulsive gambler would have risked more than five bob on Rotterdam.

The 1971-72 form book showed Ajax as having humiliated Feyenoord 1—5 in Rotterdam as recently as mid-April and Ajax had opened the season with fire in their belly. Even Dutch managers took the result as read. A poll on the eve of the big match conducted by a national newspaper showed eight gave Ajax a win to three for Feyenoord.

Twenty-four hours later we were choking on our statistics. At home Feyenoord out ran, out thought and out manoeuvred Ajax, winning 2—0. For 80 minutes of the game the home team held the reins tightly in their grasp: except for ten minutes after the pause Ajax had nothing to say. The 2—0 scoreline hardly reflected the play, for Feyenoord might have netted five without any squeals of bad luck from their opponents.

So what happened? Ajax were at full strength but were a shadow of the team we've been used to. Or perhaps more accurately they weren't allowed to be anything else. Feyenoord, so disappointing against class opposition last season, were suddenly back with a vengeance.

Cruyff of Ajax and Pavoni of Independiente during the second leg of the unofficial World Club Championship.

The result of this scramble was Ajax's first goal scored by John Neeskens.

Trainer Ernst Happel had made a big point of keeping his line-up secret before the game, announcing the team only 45 minutes before kick-off. His ploy concerned midfielder Wim van Hanegem, the big No. 10 playing his more natural role strictly in defence. And he executed this role magnificently, as solid as the foundations of Rotterdam City Hall. It left his neighbour, newcomer Theo de Jong, with considerable freedom and paid off with the 23-year-old scoring both goals.

Attribute

Ajax came up with excuses when they gathered after the match. Trainer Stefan Kovacs declared Cruyff and Blankenburg were ill, Cruyff blamed the referee's myopia and Swart had the nerve to attribute his team's failure to the state of the pitch. But then they're not used to losing. Don't forget they only lost one match last season—and that a game with Go Ahead Eagles which they played at half pace, the domestic league title already in the bag.

If losing to Feyenoord was a shock then what followed a few weeks later was a sensation . . . Ajax went down a second time, 2—0 to NAC, a team third from bottom in this none-too-strong Dutch Premier Division.

With due respect to NAC—the Breda team—they won with two glorious goals well deserved. But it was all too obvious Ajax were suffering a hangover from that shoddy game with the Argentinian Independiente three days earlier which won Amsterdam the so-called World Cup. Defender Ruud Krol summed it up: "We're come to a point when we're full up."

Ubiquitous

No doubt the World Club Championship netted more bread than anything Holland can produce. But with the kind of programme Ajax have—home league and cup plus European Cup—can they afford to punish players further with such ubiquitous frivolity? As to the interest the World Cup creates, Ajax were desperately trying to nobble the live TV showing on the afternoon prior to the match, because tickets were far from sold out.

As Ajax were enduring the NAC disaster, Feyenoord were moving comfortably to a three point lead over the Amsterdammers at the top of the league table. With eight games gone they had dropped but one point. Quite a revelation has been the contribution of 22-year-old Hungarian striker, Attila Ladinsky. Feyenoord would have paid a fortune for Gerd Müller to solve their centre forward problem but Ladinsky has done it for peanuts.

To the craft of Kristensen, the running of Peter Ressel, the Hungarian has been throwing in the finishing touches up front with a lethal left foot and an accurate head. Asked to comment on his club's rejuvenation, Ladinsky said he believed the absence of friction between players was a major factor. He has confirmed there were problems last season, talked over and settled prior to the new competition.

On the European scene, Feyenoord began the UEFA Cup campaign by equalling Chelsea's record. Against Luxembourg's US Rumelange they won 9—0 at home and 0—12 away—a total of 21 goals which Chelsea achieved last year against another Luxembourg side, Haut Charage.

Official protest

FC Twente made it to the second round too. After losing 3—2 away to the Russian Dynamo Tiflis, Twente came back to win 2—0 at home. For FC Den Haag, however, the European story is over. Matched with Spartak Moscow in the Cup Winners Cup they lost 1—0 away and failed to score in a goalless draw at home. Afterwards manager Eddy Hartman made an official protest to UEFA that the first half was six minutes short. "This is ridiculous", said the angry manager. "Even one of the linesmen told the referee he'd made a mistake".

Hooliganism on the terraces . . .

IS PUBLICITY TO BLAME?

BILLY WRIGHT, the former Wolves and England defender who is now Head of Sport for ATV, is building up a campaign against the soccer hooligans. His message is simple and to the point.

He is telling the hooligans: "Soccer clubs and their supporters do not want you at their matches. Stay away and let people enjoy their games."

Unfortunately, there is unlikely to be any great response to Wright's warning because these people who do cause trouble are often intent upon doing damage before they set out for the match.

This is a problem which has escalated a great deal in recent years. Everyone has been blamed, from players, referees and managers.

But I now believe that the news media has a great deal to answer for in this respect. I'm a member of this profession but sensational headlines have only fanned the flame. In all intents and purposes it is the same story as that involving the Northern Ireland situation. Lavish and detailed reports over the months have coloured the situation and aroused great passion that the original cause of the trouble appears to have disappeared under a mountain of newsprint.

Limited mentality

I'm not one for suppression of news, but it does appear that mountains have grown over-night from problems which might have been solved amicably if it had escaped the spotlight of publicity. On the soccer front there is a similar situation arising because these hooligans of an obvious limited mentality apparently derive great satisfaction from their exploits which are avidly reported and read after the event.

Bill Moore, Walsall's manager of wide experience, is a man who believes that this kind of publicity has been one of the main reasons for the present trouble on the terraces. Mr. Moore feels that it is also a major reason for the fall in attendances because adult members of society are reluctant to take their young children to games in fear of suffering personal injury.

Personally, it is a problem which cannot be solved by stiffer penalties in the courts. This has never proved a deterrent because of the obvious rebellion of this minority against authority. The only way to cool the situation is to avoid the confrontations upon which these elements survive.

The news media can play a vital role in this situation by refusing to provide the kind of stories which add fuel to the fire.

Type of stories

We have a responsibility to the game and not all reporters acknowledge the fact. Their own newspapers are partly to blame for demanding the type of stories that are submitted. A case in point was the recent Wolves-Glasgow Rangers friendly game at Molineux. A few days previously some Rangers' fans had wrecked a train on their way back from Hearts and great play was made upon the incident in regard to the forthcoming match in the Midlands.

Although there was unlikely to be a great following for a pre-season mid-week friendly, a great deal of the match publicity was centred around possible trouble from the Rangers' fans.

As events turned out there were four arrests by the local police, which from reports had been substantially increased in strength for this match. The four were all locals yet great play was made on the fact by some Scottish reporters. Two Scots in the crowd received head injuries in separate incidents and no one is to know whether members of their own group had inflicted the injuries.

But the point is that the incidents received far too much publicity and in some cases outweighed the coverage of the match which was a life-less sort of an affair which Wolves won 2-0.

These, however, are the stories which are read widely and encourage the unruly to emulate their counterparts in different towns and cities.

This is why I honestly believe that a great deal of the heat could be taken out of the situation if the provocation could be avoided. The police themselves in their anticipation of trouble sometimes provide the excuse for the confrontation.

It's a delicate situation and everyone must make a worthwhile contribution if the problem is to be solved. Of course, it would be very easy if the hooligans took Billy Wright's advice and stayed away from the grounds.

The new fencing at Chelsea to prevent suppporters going from one end of the ground to the other.

Joe Royle scores for Everton.

Everton climb their way back to the top...

WHEN Dixie Dean finally turned his broad back on the dressing-room door outside Goodison Park, broken-hearted over the unexpected parting nearing the end of a fantastic career, the sixty-goals-a-season star turned to me and said: "I wonder what's in store for the old club?"

One of the greatest scoring centre-forwards of all time, his goals helped win the championship and the cup for an Everton team which brilliantly blazed the trail from one success to another, with internationals in every position, and was often referred to as "The team of the century".

Many used to shake their heads and opine that the famous Blues would never again know the glories of the thirties, yet since the war they have twice been champs again, and, in the interim, sandwiched a Wembley victory between, and at a time when the odds seemed massed against such an accomplishment.

Victories

But then came the slump many of the knowledgeable ones had been forecasting. Harry Catterick was taken ill, the team lost its spirit, and almost finished among the dead men at the wrong end of the First Division chart, last, season, with a mere nine victories to its credit.

Of course, that type of performance upset everybody associated with that famous outfit. Nobody shrugged off the many defeats. And as they looked across Stanley Park towards the stand roofs of their great Anfield rivals, who were then battling for the League title, they didn't like the view.

The dismal winter record hit one man particularly hard. I'm thinking now of John Moores, the Pools and Chain Store boss, who has been a staunch Evertonian all his busy life, and knew the miseries of defeat while watching from the terraces as a teenager whenever there was time to spare from delivering telegrams for six bob a week.

Somebody suggested he might like to take charge once more. Just as he did for a very successful 5 year spell in the chair in the sixties. And, at 76, he resumed an old partnership with the manager, after Harry had recovered his lost health, and the team was gradually rebuilt.

They spent the money as if it grew on trees. Nearly £330,000 worth of the lovely stuff. They bought Mike Bernard from Stoke, John Connolly from St. Johnstone, and David Lawson from Huddersfield, shaped a new line-up, got away to a great start last August, and in next to no time were undefeated leaders of the First Division.

Reconciled

The defence was tightened. There was more fluidity in attack. The goals came better. Yet those were only two pleasing facets of a game which was being gradually raised, and hardly reconciled with some of last year's rubbish.

There are many schools of thought about the dominant reason for this tremendous change. Maybe those who single out Lawson, the game's most expensive 'keeper at £80,000, have a good point. For this six-footer who learned the art of guarding a line in the north-east, and then had experience with Bradford before moving to Leeds Road, is another Banks. That's a fact.

Defender

West Bromwich Albion's forwards will readily pay tribute to his daring and uncannily correct positioning, and it's looking to me that Gordon West, the man he had to challenge for the first-team spot, is in for a long run with "The Stiffs".

Bernard, the defender who cost £170,000, has also slotted into the general scheme of things so easily, yet efficiently, that he could be Reason No. 2, and, come to think of it, Connolly, who is not only a ball player but also a skilled finisher, could almost automatically be Reason No. 3.

Anyway, those are three good pointers though, of course, there are other factors determining the course of this New Everton. I'll give you another four who might easily fetch almost a million quid, if they became available—Tommy Wright, Colin Harvey, Joe Royle, and Howard Kendall.

Kendall, the skipper, has come a long way since that remarkable week in April of 1964, when a disciplinary decision by Preston created an unexpected wing-half vacancy in North End's Cup team, and he was handed the No. 6 spot against West Ham United.

At the tender age of 17 he was the youngest player ever to appear in a Wembley final, and I remember nostalgically the human moment when, walking away as a member of a defeated squad, he was comforted by 18-year-old John Sissons, the Hammers' left-winger.

Now, he's leading Everton with considerable aplomb, and often supplying the power behind Royle, the marksman who always has to measure up to the ghosts who wore the No. 9 shirt before he was even a sparkle in his father's eye —Dean, Lawton, Catterick.

A galaxy of talent? Yes. And gathered together for what could become a memorable season.

ERIC THORNTON

CLOUGH'S RECORD IS REMARKABLE

BRIAN CLOUGH or Derby County—which came first? It almost seems like the chicken and the egg again. But though the controversy rages over the Manager of the current English League champions, whether he be master manipulator, magician or megalomaniac, the facts cannot be disputed. Since Clough took over the club they have achieved remarkable success.

Last season they reached their peak. The Texaco Cup may not be everybody's cup of tea—or should that be can of petrol—but it was a competition which the club won. The reserves took the Central League in impressive fashion. But the crowning glory was winning the First Division championship.

You may argue that everyone else threw their chance of taking the title away, leaving it to Derby County, but this unfairly detracts from the club's performance. It was all the more extraordinary when you consider the slender resources in terms of a senior squad that Derby had available during the season.

Advantage

Of the 16 players used throughout the campaign, three of them made only a handful of appearances all told. Frank Wignall was transferred before half of the season had gone by which left just twelve. One team plus a substitute!

Naturally the club were lucky to escape injuries. They could have been in serious trouble with them. But they got away with it and the advantage of continually playing together finally paid off.

From goalkeeper to outside left the side was talented enough without possessing an entire team of stars of outstanding individual merit.

When Clough arrived at Derby he did not consider Colin Boulton to be his first choice as a goalkeeper. But eventually he put him in the side after dropping Les Green and Boulton has stayed there ever since.

His full-backs were Ron Webster and John Robson. Webster, a converted wing-half, did a steady job at right back as the longest serving player on the club's books with over 300 League appearances. The younger Robson had gained Under-23 honours for England and was inclined to be impetuous in upfield ventures.

The centre backs were Roy McFarland and Colin Todd. McFarland the captain who succeeded Dave Mackay in the role with the club had made the position his own for England, too. Todd bought from Sunderland for the club's then record fee of £170,000 in February 1971, provided bite and strength in the middle of the back four, covering McFarland when he was called up to go upfield.

Of Todd, Clough said last season: "There was a moment or two when I wondered if I had bought the right player—when he made a hash or two of a couple of headers—but it passed."

Hardly the words of someone who is reputed to be infallible in judgement—but then that is a character assessment made by others.

Clough rates the industrious and talented McFarland as the greatest in the country and for long sung the praises of his No. 5 before Sir Alf Ramsey welcomed him into the fold.

JACK ROLLIN'S
Club Focus on
DERBY COUNTY

The problem berth was the midfield wing-half spot where Terry Hennessey struggled to overcome a series of cartilage problems and left Alan Durban with the position at the season's end. Hennessey was the better defensive player, Durban the attacker.

In the forward line John McGovern who had been discovered at Hartlepools—Clough's previous club—was converted from a winger pure and simple to a midfield capacity. McGovern was light and sometimes knocked off the ball easily but contributed some hard graft in the middle line.

Star of the show in midfield, however, was Archie Gemmill, picked up the previous term from Preston North End and developed into a fast, all action player able to take on defences single-handed and find time to create openings for others through the wake of the havoc he caused with his runs.

The striking department was in the hands of three men—John O'Hare, Scottish international centre forward, Kevin Hector who had been scoring goals since his Fourth Division days with Bradford Park Avenue and left winger Alan Hinton, a fierce dead ball kicker and accurate crosser of it.

O'Hare with the build and mobility of a Centurion tank was difficult to shift from the ball, Hector ran endlessly and selflessly all over the front line and Hinton chipped in with his own two special qualities.

It all added up to one word—success, in terms of championship victory.

Application

Much of the achievements came from the application and direction at the top of course. Clough's brusque manner gives the impression at the Baseball Ground that the Great Dictator is at hand again. But under it all there is a fairness which if you have the courage to look for must be admired.

I have seen as much of Brian Clough on match days as I have of any First Division Manager in the past couple of years. And there is no one quite like him.

At Stamford Bridge on one occasion I had to go into the dressing room after Derby had thrown away a point and because of the onus of my task had to enter at an awkward moment, just as Clough was "talking" to his team. Quite naturally he had me fleeing in less time than it takes to tell.

I understood perfectly. Clough was right. But later that evening he telephoned the BBC to ask them if they would apologise to me for his apparent rudeness. There was no need for him to have done this, because the ten minutes or so after the end of any football match are private to the position of Manager and should never be violated for any reason. After all his livelihood depends on moments like that.

On another occasion at the Baseball Ground he cleared the dressing room corridors one morning of a handful of odd bods with one verbal blast and in the next breath was complimenting the ground staff. Again no one was around to make notes and there was no need for him to have done it.

And the words "Good lad", from him really mean just that and those who know him well enough are aware of it. In other circumstances the same feeling would probably come from having a Knighthood bestowed on you.

John O'Hare of Derby in action against Zeljeznicar Sarajevo.

Assistant Manager Peter Taylor has been with him at more than one club of course and knows him as well as any colleague.

Earlier this season Clough was being interviewed on Saturday morning on television and just before the recording he was chatting away to the commentator and technicians in the same forthright manner he expresses himself whether in public or private.

Taylor looked at him and said quietly: "How can you stop someone like that from being himself?" And that is precisely what Clough is—himself. Where the dividing line between actor and truth is often wide on most people, it probably does not exist at all with Clough. It is not an act.

Outbursts

The start of this season brought Clough and the club into the headlines in a different way. Clough's outbursts appeared not to be to the liking of the Football Association and the Football League. But Clough does not have one law for the mighty another for the lesser lights. This is not to say that he is right all the time or that he should say what he does. But since he does it from the point of view of honesty he must be given credit for it.

At no time during the 1971-72 season did Clough say that Derby County would win the title. In fact he said that a team with a playing squad of only 12 or 13 had no chance at all. And even when it seemed that the Easter win over Leeds United had put them in with a great chance, he was nothing more than quietly optimistic about being able to stay in the race.

To a radio interviewer who asked him that Derby were now favourites he replied: "Favourites? I think that means we must have a chance—I'm not a betting man, myself."

What do they say—find a betting man and you will find a fool? Certainly Clough is no one's fool. You may not agree with his form of left wing politics, agree with his sticking his neck out as he did when he paraded Ian Moore at Derby before the deal with Forest was signed, sealed and delivered, queried the purchase of David Nish for £225,000, but you have to admire him for his attitude.

And talking of the Moore incident, I defy anyone who was in the Midland Hotel that evening to say that he would not have laid money on the player remaining with Derby—in company which included the player, his wife, Manager Clough and several others. But that's football, all over, and betting fools of course.

The 1972-73 season has not been a good one from the playing point of view in terms of League success at least for Derby County. Europe could hold a better prospect.

And even in the cauldron of Europe, Clough has brought a refreshing change of attitude. He was surprised when someone said to him that his team had not been drawn against Sarajevo but Zeljeznicar Sarajevo. He was not worried about them as much as the Yugoslavians were worried over Derby. They watched Derby twice before they played them but Derby proved the superior side on the field when they met.

Perhaps it would be foolish to continue this trend, but since tactics depend almost solely on hoping that the opposition will do what you want them to do, the idea of forgetting about them has much to commend it in certain respects.

Publicity

Clough is not a publicity seeker, it just happens that what he says always makes news and if the substance of it does not, then the way he says it does.

He can be very funny when he wants to be. I recall the famous talk-in given a group of journalists with Malcolm Allison joining in after Manchester City had been beaten at the Baseball Ground last season. They agreed that Manchester United's position of being five points clear at the head of the table was a false one.

Clough said: "I keep telling my players that United won't stay there, but they think I'm a liar."

I don't think Clough is a liar, whatever else he may be to people.

MEXICO QUALIFY

MEXICO, with a clean sweep of their games against Canada and the United States, have won their way into the second preliminary round of the World Cup in the CONCACAF region.

The series opened with Canada playing the United States in St. John's, Newfoundland. With a capacity crowd of 8,000 on hand in the tiny stadium, Canada quickly went ahead on a goal by Buzz Parsons and by the 63rd minute had increased their lead to 3-0 on goals by Bruce Twamley and Glen Johnson.

Three minutes after Johnson's spectacular goal with an overhead kick, Willie Roy headed the United States back into the game, and then in the 88th minute Rudy Getzinger squeezed the ball between goalkeeper Dick Howard and the post to make it 3-2. The Canadians held onto their lead for the final two minutes to send the noisy but highly enthusiastic crowd home happy.

Experience

Four days later Canada met Mexico in Toronto and in a highly exciting contest were beaten by one goal to nil. Canada more than held their own before a crowd of 14,000 and with a little more experience and steadiness in front of goal must surely have had the game won in the first half. As it was it took the Mexicans until the 63rd minute before they scored. The goal came with the Mexicans breaking quickly from a corner to Canada and Juan Borbolla finished it off with a low cross shot from the left wing which went just inside the far post.

Baltimore was the next stop for the Canadians and as in Newfoundland they took an early lead with Ike Mackay scoring. A strengthened United States team hit back to take the lead through Willie Roy and Barry Barto before Canada got a well deserved equaliser nine minutes from the end through Jim Douglas. The game was watched by a meagre crowd of 3,500.

From Baltimore it was on to Mexico for the United States while Canada travelled to Guatemala City for an international against Guatemala. Both games were played on the same day, with the Mexicans winning the all important one in Aztec Stadium by three goals to one. Mexico had little trouble in establishing a 3-0 lead on goals by Cesareo Victorino, Fernando Bustos and Enrique Borja before the United States got on the scoreboard in the 78th minute with Willie Roy scoring.

In Guatemala in a game that was not part of the World Cup, Canada took the lead after 30 minutes with Bill Young scoring. The Guatemalans tied the score shortly after but Joe Shiraldi restored Canada's lead. Two minutes from the end Guatemala scored again to make the final score 2-2.

With Mexico having won both their games in the competition so far, Canada required a win in Mexico City three days later to stand any chance of qualifying, and this was a tall order when you consider that much more experienced teams than Canada could do little more than draw in Mexico.

Controversial

A goal from Mexico's talented midfield player Victorino in the 21st minute soon made Canada's task even more difficult, this goal closely resembled Geoff Hurst's controversial goal in the 1966 World Cup Final and on this occasion the Canadians were so certain that it had not crossed the line that they played on. The referee, Mr. Koetsier of the Netherlands Antilles, thought otherwise and Mexico were one up.

But the Canadians fought back and following a combined move Brian Robinson drilled a fine 25 yard drive into the top right hand corner of the net to give Mexico's veteran goalkeeper Ignacio Calderon no chance.

With the score tied at half time, and the Canadians playing well, an upset looked in the making, but once again experience proved to be the determining factor, just as it was in the first game.

One minute after half time the Mexicans were awarded a free kick on the edge of the Canadian penalty area to the right and Fernando Bustos, who had an outstanding game for Mexico, curled the ball through a chink in the Canadian wall to make it 2-1. Undaunted the Canadians came back again and Glen Johnson hit the inside of an upright, while in the dying minutes Tony Lecce had a certain goal kicked off the line with Calderon beaten.

This had to be Canada's best ever international performance and quite amazingly it was achieved by a team which contained eight amateurs and very limited international experience. This team was a great credit to coach Frank Pike who built it up to this standard from scratch in just one month.

With this win Mexico clinched a place in the second round and made their final game against the US in Los Angeles meaningless, however the Mexicans won this one as well, leaving the United States just one point from four games.

Departure

In this final game before 13,855, Gene Geimer gave the US the lead after eight minutes. Three minutes later Sergio Ceballos equalised and from then on it was all Mexico. Mike Winter, surely the best goalkeeper the US has ever produced, was outstanding and turned back repeated attacks, until after making a good save from Joel Andrade he failed to hold the ball and Borbolla scored from the rebound.

So once again the US and Canada have made an early departure from the World Cup, but whereas the Canadians can be more than pleased with the performance of their young team (average age 21), the United States on the other hand will have to show drastic improvement in organisation before 1976 and the next preliminary round if they are to put the talents of some of their players to better use.

Bob Kehoe the likeable and refreshingly sincere coach of the US team had an unenviable task this summer for the United States Soccer Football Association has no rule stating that clubs must release their players to play for the national team. Therefore he was denied a number of the players selected to the squad, and speaking on television before the game in Newfoundland he said: "We

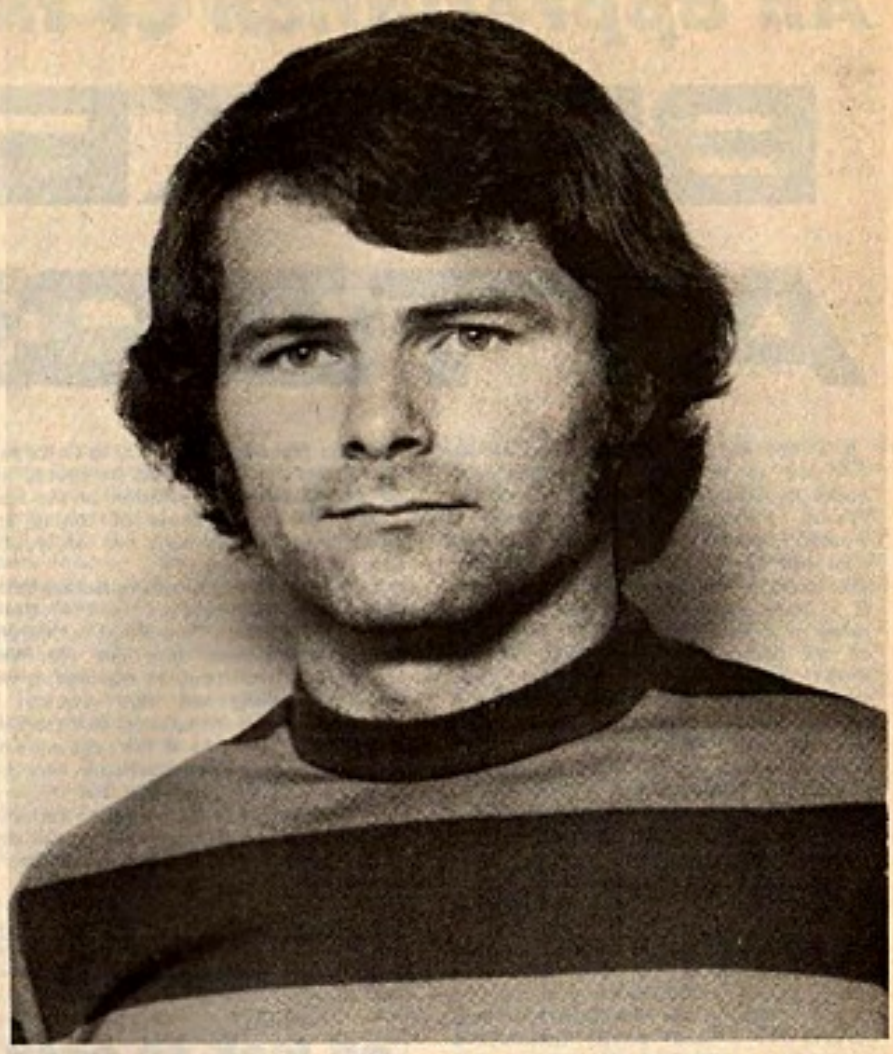
COLIN JOSE reports on the CONCACAF group one World Cup matches

held a training camp in New York State, but less than 10 of the players showed up because their clubs would not release them."

On the morning of the game in Baltimore between the US and Canada the referee, inspecting the pitch in the Baltimore baseball stadium, found that was below international size. The Canadians agreed to play but only under protest. By game time, however, the pitch had been enlarged by taking in part of the baseball infield and removing the pitchers' mound, but even then part of the playing field was on a tarmac track. An amazing state of affairs in a nation that has talked so often of staging the World Cup Finals.

Baseball stadiums were never designed as places in which to play soccer, and in future, important international games should not be played there, for this problem has occurred before.

Of the third member of this group—the Mexicans—it would now seem likely that their experience will carry them through the second round against the winners of the other five groups in this area. But they will have to show considerable improvement by 1974 if they are to do well in West Germany.



Brian Robinson of Victoria United scored Canada's goal against Mexico in the Aztec Stadium.

Cosmos win title

THE New York Cosmos are the new champions of the North American Soccer League following a dramatic late winning goal in the final against the St. Louis Stars.

New York took the lead early in the game at Hofstra Stadium on Long Island with Randy Horton, voted the Most Valuable Player in the NASL this season, heading in a cross from Israeli international Ruben Young.

The Cosmos were on top throughout the first 25 minutes with young St. Louis goalkeeper Mike Winter in superb form, and as the game progressed St. Louis began to come back and by half time were unfortunate not to be level.

Pat McBride was having an excellent game in midfield and he was instrumental in offsetting the New York midfield pair of John Kerr and Siggy Stritzl, who have been the key to much of the success that the Cosmos have enjoyed this season.

With seven minutes of the second half gone former Crystal Palace player John Sewell found McBride. He headed it on to Casey Frankiewicz standing alone in front of the New York goal and the former Polish international gave goalkeeper Richard Blackmore no chance from close range.

Both teams went close as the tension built up with sudden death overtime approaching, but with four minutes left to play John Kerr was brought down in the St. Louis penalty area and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty.

Josef Jelinek took the kick but Mike Winter dived the right way and turned the ball against the inside of the left post, but sadly for the young St. Louis goalkeeper it ended up in the back of the net.

It was the climax to the sixth season of play in the NASL and followed two semi-finals between the division champions and runners-up in the Northern and Southern sections of the league. St. Louis, champions in the South, beat Rochester the runners-up in the North in one semi-final by two goals to nil with Sewell and Geimer scoring for St. Louis, while in the other semi-final New York beat last year's champions the Dallas Tornado with a goal in the 60th minute from John Kerr. New York had earlier won the Northern Division championship.

An appreciation of the talents of

BECKENBA

ATTACKING

AT the end of the year, the annual poll to find the outstanding footballer in Europe will be held as usual by France Football, and right now I wouldn't mind a small bet that the man who will take the trophy by a considerable margin will be Franz Beckenbauer. If it does materialise it will be something of a paradox for at the beginning of the season the big West German weekly 'Der Kicker' awarded their annual trophy to Gunter Netzer of Borussia Monchengladbach. Beckenbauer had already been West Germany's 'Fussballer des Jahre' twice before and I believe that the choice of Netzer—not to take anything away from him—was at least in part, based on sentiment.

Not being German I can be more objective and I take Beckenbauer, not so much for what he did but the position from which he did it!

Beckenbauer's talents have never been in doubt, even in his early days as a youth player when he was a fan of Bayern's local rivals Munchen 1860 and playing for a local youth team. As a centre forward he had real promise and Bayern needed only one look to make up their minds that they wanted him.

Quite quickly, however, he was converted into a wing half, playing in midfield where he had greater opportunity to 'stay in the game' and display his talents.

Defensive

Before his 21st birthday he was already playing two roles, being capped for West Germany at right half while playing for Bayern as the *libero* or *ausputzer* as it is known in Germany. Playing behind his defensive colleagues at club level, it no doubt came as something of a surprise when the English popular press 'discovered' him during the 1966 World Cup and sung his praises.

"A brilliantly skilful player, but lacking in his defensive responsibilities at wing half' . . . was a typical comment. The fact that he was a full blooded *libero* at home was of course not known then in England.

In spite of his outstanding abilities the Bayern Munchen boss of the time—the former Yugoslav international wing half Zlatko 'Tschik' Cajkowski—made him a full time defender. To Bayern fans, the German press and probably to Cajkowski too it was imperative that he should not be moved from his position *at the back* where his superb sense of timing and anticipation got Bayern out of trouble time and time again.

I recall at this time seeing Beckenbauer in his *ausputzer* role in the 1967 European Cup Winners Cup Final in Nuremberg. Having seen him for the West German national team in midfield, it was for me, nothing less than criminal to waste his talents in defence. But German journalists I spoke to at the time were all convinced that if Beckenbauer was not doing his customary job for Bayern, their entire defence would collapse. "Without him," I was told repeatedly, "the Bayern defence would look like a seive."

> **'He makes it all look so easy —therein lies his greatness'**

For the national team it was quite different of course with the experienced and very reliable Willi Schulz available at stopper and Wolfgang Weber amongst others readily available to play alongside him. Thus for the national team he was set free to 'play' as he can play . . . in midfield.

Way back in 1966 it had been my conviction that the Germans had thrown away their chance of beating England in the World Cup Final at Wembley when Helmut Schon shackled Beckenbauer. In earlier matches, Beckenbauer had been flying about everywhere, stamping his personality on the game each time he played. But obsessed by the 'threat' of Bobby Charlton, Schon unwisely decided to give Beckenbauer the job of marking him and in so doing he lost his ace card. In the final the German attack never really functioned as it had earlier, missing the promptings of Beckenbauer from midfield.

As it turned out it was a very close run thing with the score at 2—2 at 90 minutes and England winning in extra time. How would things have gone if Schon had omitted the free scoring (in league games) left winger Lothar Emmerich who contributed nothing at all in the final, introduced an extra defensive midfield player for Emmerich, and left Beckenbauer free to attack? Of course, it is hypothetical, but I am convinced as I was then that Schon lost his chance when he picked his team and handcuffed Beckenbauer.

Possession

Between 1966 and 1971 Beckenbauer's role in the national team remained the same. *Ausputzer* for his club, he played a roving midfield game in the national team. Slowly, however, he was beginning to discover how he could combine the two roles and during 1970-71 he began to emerge in his new role as the attacking *ausputzer*. It developed naturally for when Bayern were a goal behind or otherwise in trouble, Beckenbauer would occasionally go forward when his team had possession of the ball. As long as they kept possession there was no danger to the Bayern goal—and quite often Beckenbauer became a scorer in club games. No doubt with the encouragement of his club manager, by this time Udo Lattek, Beckenbauer began to go forward more and more and so his new role gradually developed.

So it is that Beckenbauer has added a new dimension to the term 'sweeper', *libero* or *Ausputzer*. Playing at the back . . . with no one to mark . . . he has a unique opportunity to come forward, virtually unchallenged at any moment of his choosing. Unlike a full back, whose opposing winger may be instructed to 'drop back' if his opponent moves up (and cover him) or 'tackle back' if the full back tries to 'play' . . . Beckenbauer like all the other free-backs, really is FREE.

The only way in which he can be prevented from playing is by positioning a defensive midfield player immediately behind your own centre forward and instructing him to WATCH BECKENBAUER and pick him up whenever he moves forward. Even this is no guarantee that Beckenbauer can be played out of the game because he is

the West German captain

AUER—THE G LIBERO

extremely intelligent, quick to spot the opportunities and very, very skilful on the ball.

But—it is the only way to cope with him and that means virtually playing with ten men for the man detailed to mark Beckenbauer will spend much of his time out of the game. If he allows his attention to be distracted; if he is tempted to challenge anyone else then Beckenbauer has complete freedom to move. So Beckenbauer's opponent must concentrate on him completely!

Meanwhile things were changing within the West German national team. Willi Schulz was going over the top and there was no obvious replacement. Meanwhile Helmut Schon had seen how Beckenbauer was playing now for Bayern and must have realised how he could revolutionise thinking in the game. Having criticised Schon for his 1966 World Cup final debacle, it is only fair now to recognise that the decision to give Beckenbauer 'free rein' from the back was his.

Free-back

It was a decision that took courage as well as understanding—but the result has reverberated around the world. Defensive-thinking has been revolutionised and the free-back is no longer regarded as a purely destructive and negative force. For the game as a whole Beckenbauer's performances in the spring of this year has had a tremendous impact. West Germany humiliated England at Wembley, twice in two months 'butchered' the Soviet Union and carried off the European Championship in a blaze of glory and in all this Beckenbauer's role was clear for all to see. Since then I have talked with coaches from three different countries—and they must be representative of many—who have toyed and are toying—with the idea of converting their key midfield general into a Beckenbauer-style 'free back'.

Even the Italians have been impressed, though one doubts if anyone there will have the courage to follow the lead of Lattek and Schon. Unfortunately, most of the stoppers and free-backs are quite the opposite of Beckenbauer and cannot be converted. Big, strong in the tackle and good in the air this is where their qualities end.

For anyone attempting to emulate Beckenbauer one must have world class skill with the ball; intelligence and a highly developed sense of anticipation and ability to read the game. Any new *Beckenbauers* that evolve will be developed in one of two ways—they will be converted from established midfield generals or they will be young inside forwards who switch to the free-back role while still in their teens.

The problem is simply stated by Anton Malatinsky, the highly successful coach of Czech champions Spartak Trnava. He stated publicly that if he had TWO players like his international inside forward Ladislav Kuna he 'would' convert ONE of them to be another Beckenbauer.

There can be no higher praise for any player than to have half the world seeking to copy you but though others may try it is doubtful if they will produce the equal of the West German star. At 26 and with 60 caps to his credit he is probably the most accomplished player in the world. To appreciate his ability to anticipate passes and cut them off is one thing—and he does it superbly. But it is his distribution and his running off the ball that illustrates just how great he is.

In possession he flicks the ball around unerringly, always finding his target. Usually he plays the ball away to a colleague who is free, but in tight situations he uses team-mates who can be promptly challenged. He places his pass so that the ball can be received and easily screened—then immediately runs to re-position himself and take an easy ball back.

Then having played himself out of trouble and received the ball back in space, he can with time to spare, look around and find a well placed team-mate who is free.

Beckenbauer's impeccable skill has to be closely observed to be fully appreciated. To reach a colleague twenty yards away—with an opponent between them—Beckenbauer uses the outside of his right foot to 'bend' the ball *round* the opponent so that he has no chance of reaching it. Alternatively, if the opponent is not too close for this he 'chips' the ball over his head with almost casual skill and calm, to drop the ball at exactly the right place.

His distribution is impeccable and every pass he makes not only spot-on for accuracy but also bent or chipped to make intervention impossible. This is the ultimate in football, the very essence of what the game is all about . . . and Beckenbauer makes it all look so easy. Therein lies his true greatness.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

Penalty king must be Sabo

WHO is the world's greatest penalty taker? In England fans would immediately think of Francis Lee, in Germany they might plump for Günter Netzer, whilst the Brazilians would insist it is Pelé. But in fact it must be the Russian midfield star Josif Sabo (31), who has never missed a penalty in first class football.

In his career with Dynamo Kiev, Czernomorec Odessa and currently Dynamo Moscow, as well as for the national side, Sabo has converted every one of 73 penalties! His career was incidentally quite remarkable by Russian standards. A born rebel, he missed about 200 games whilst being disciplined for a variety of offences.

Still, he performed in over 350 League, plus 35 full international matches. When Dynamo Kiev decided to get rid of this wayward genius, Sabo was transferred to the unfashionable outfit of Czernomorec from Odessa. He next wanted another move but in Russia a footballer is only allowed to play for two clubs in his entire career.

So Sabo quit the game to become a sports journalist but came back after a few months claiming he was starting a new sporting life from scratch! Sabo who played in the 1966 World Cup finals, was recently recalled to the national squad for the Olympic Games in Munich.

He now plays for Moscow Dynamos for whom he incidentally starred in last season's Cup Winners Cup final against Glasgow Rangers in Barcelona. The Scots were lucky not to have given away a penalty, for "dead shot" Sabo would surely have hit his 74th spot kick home!

The captains of both West Germany's Schalke 04 and Slavia of Bulgaria were sent off in a second leg European Cup Winners Cup tie. Schalke won 3—1 and moved through to the next stage of the competition on a 5—2 aggregate.

The match was marred by occasional displays of temper but real trouble flared in the 55th minute when Tassev of Slavia and Kramer of Schalke were ordered off after exchanging blows.

Belgium score twice

Belgium, third in this year's European Championship, struggled to an unimpressive 2—0 victory over Norway in Oslo in a Group Three World Cup match. Although the Belgians dominated their amateur opponents, they had to wait until the 55th minute before Leon Dulmans put them ahead with a penalty. A minute later Raoul Lambert added the second goal from a pass by Leon Semmeling.

Denmark and Switzerland drew 1—1 in an international in Copenhagen. The score at half time was 1—1. Walter Balmer scored for Switzerland after 16 minutes and John Steen Olsen for Denmark four minutes later. The attendance was 10,800.

A team of five well-known personalit recently to take on a team of local lads launch "Goaldiggers", an organisation pitches for under-privileged children. Th Frost, Jimmy Hill, David Bedford, Tom news about "G

Goals in each half by Cubillas and Maneiro gave the South American team a 2—0 win over the European selection in their international charity match in Basle in front of a disappointingly low crowd of 14,000.

Cubillas, the Peruvian striker, headed the first goal in the 35th minute. Substitute Maneiro of Uruguay clinched victory with another header in the 65th minute.

The match was staged to provide funds for the upbringing and education of 150 needy orphans from Asia, Africa and Latin America in the Pestalozzi Children's village in Eastern Switzerland.

Pele settles dispute

Brazilian star Pele has signed a new contract with his club Santos after a week of haggling over money, club sources said in Sao Paulo. Smiling and hugging club officials, Pele left the club after

announcing if Santos did demands. E only snag w should be dollars for abroad.

There wa ago, when market was real action. had money to spend it night, the and a pre seemed to waving cheq

The newsp time, rep rumours, rushing to MacDougall team before new Manch Sums of o hands for worth half

At a tim football is economical market is g out of har world.

This mag slow to c policies and Alf Ramsey England's t deserves not

ies went to Bermondsey in London's dockland at five-a-side football. The occasion was held to that plans to raise money to provide football e team, pictured above, was (left to right): David Courtney and Jimmy Greaves. We will have more Goaldiggers" next month.

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s a time, not long the English transfer almost devoid of any Most of the big clubs to spend, but nobody on. Then, almost over-whole scene changed cession of managers be chasing round ue books in the air. aper had a wonderful porting speculation, act and themselves sign new men. Ted joined the Mirror he had even met his ester United colleagues. ver £200,000 changed players, in reality, not that.

ne when professional facing a serious situation; the transfer utting more and more nd. It's a mad, mad

azine has never been riticise some of the decision made by Sir during his reign as eam manager. But he thing but sympathy for the manner in which his plans for England's encounter with Yugoslavia were shattered by club calls on his selected players. It really is time a long appraisal was made of the English season: it is too long, with too many matches and too many competitions.

Surprise win for France

FRANCE snatched a somewhat surprising 1—0 victory over the Soviet Union in a Group Nine World Cup qualifying round match played at the Par des Princes stadium in Paris. France played the more attacking football throughout and deserved their victory over a pedestrian Soviet team.

The winning goal came in the 61st minute when outside left Georges Bereta scored after a free-kick.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

A call for a world-wide ballot to pick the best-behaved team in the 1974 World Cup finals has been made by the newly formed International Association Against Violence in Sport (AICVS). The organisation was set-up in France three months ago with the aim of combating violence on and off the field in all sports.

It has already offered a trophy to the crowd judged the best behaved throughout the French soccer season in both the first and second divisions. This was followed by a suggestion to FIFA that the crowds in West Germany and millions of television viewers watching the World Cup should be asked to select a team to top a good behaviour league.

The crowd behaviour system currently being operated in France is based on a mark of from one to 20 awarded at each match by the trainer of the visiting team, the referee and the delegate from the Football Federation.

The average of the three marks is taken and then an overall average worked out by comparison with previous marks. St Etienne currently lead the first division trophy table with an average of 16 points, with the second division table led by Boulogne with 17.24 points.

Madagascar and Gabon have withdrawn from the 1974 World Cup. Mauritius qualifies for the second round against Kenya, matches to be played before February 28 next year. Cameroon will play Zaire, with the same deadline.

HANS HENNINGSEN'S Brazilian Notebook will return to World Soccer next month, and will include an interview with Joao Havelange, President of the CBD. Hans has recently returned to Brazil from Munich.

We must correct an error which appeared in the September edition of World Soccer. It was not Paulo Cesar who has been banned but Cesar of Palmeiras. Our apologies to Paulo Cesar for this case of mistaken identity. Paulo is currently rated the best player in Brazil.

Ted MacDougall and Ena Sharples (alias Violet Carson), discussing dominoes or football. The two met in the Granada TV studios shortly after Ted had signed for Manchester United.

West German newsletter from ARTHUR ROTMIL

Clubs cash in on success

GERMAN footballers are only just finding out what full time professionalism really means. The high wages and bonuses must first be earned through sheer hard work on the field of play. The clubs rely on good home gates to accumulate the finances necessary to keep their players in the manner to which they are being accustomed! But even for the big clubs, with their ratio of expensive stars, the revenue at the turnstiles is simply not enough to meet the current demands of famous internationals who expect lavish remuneration for their skills. And so the majority of German clubs are cashing in on the wave of success, created by the national side winning the European Championship (writes ARTHUR ROTMIL)

Many *Bundesliga* teams have been fortunate enough to receive offers of playing friendlies abroad. This naturally has prompted some of the top clubs to embark on an unprecedented programme of pre-season commitments, partly as preparation for the new championship term, but mainly with the declared intent to fill their coffers! Bayern Munich, for instance, have played no fewer than 21 games at home and overseas in the space of 38 days! Borussia Mönchengladbach performed in 20 matches during a period of under seven weeks! Other clubs here have also completed a similar marathon of pre-season fixtures.

Corruption scandals

In mid-September—after the Olympic Games had ended—the *Bundesliga* began its tenth season. Unfortunately, the clouds of the various corruption scandals have still not dispersed. Schalke, the Cup-holders are still waiting for further action about to be brought against some of their current players. Rot-weiss Oberhausen are already handicapped by the inevitable deduction of five points from their total at the end of the season. It will be a miracle if this club, so severely punished for their part in a bribery case, manage to avoid relegation.

Hertha Berlin will also struggle, after losing several first choice players who had been convicted and expelled, but most of whom have emigrated to South Africa with the blessing of the DFB. And the club who started the bribery explosion, or rather who contributed to their discovery—Kickers Offenbach—why, they bounced back already and are once more in the highest sphere!

Equally delighted over their new surroundings are the new boys Wuppertal S.V., who are hoping for a lucrative first season in the Bundesliga. Their main stand has already been sold out for all matches (!) and they hope to average at least 20,000 fans in their stadium which can hold 38,000 and is called Stadion am Zoo—yes, in the zoo!

Defending champions Bayern Munich are once again firm favourites for the crown. They made a great start and inevitably Gerd Müller opened his account with a brilliant hat-trick in the 5—0 away triumph at Oberhausen. The Bavarians have not made any significant signings and will bank on their six internationals—the "Europameisters". The youth international Bernhard Dürnberger (19) and defender Gernot Rohr (19), are among the better known newcomers, whilst full back Koppenhöfer has left for VfB Stuttgart, in exchange for Yugoslav-born 'keeper Zlatko Skoric.

The most interesting changes concern Borussia Mönchengladbach. In place of that fine Danish international winger Ulrik Le Fevre, the club engaged his compatriot Henning Jensen (23), who has made an astonishing leap from a 4th Division club Nörre Sundby to one of the leading Leagues in Europe. In addition, their former forward Bernd Rupp returned to their ranks after a spell with Bremen and Cologne.

In defence, Borussia have been strengthened by the Israeli international Shmuel Rosenthal (25), with 42 caps to his credit. He becomes the first Israeli to join a German *Bundesliga* club. Another Jewish-born star, Mordechai Spiegler (28), whose name has been linked with West Ham, could not join Borussia because of the limit on two foreign players, per club. Efforts to loan Spiegler—who holds a record 63 caps for Israel—for a year, to FC Cologne, have failed because of his poor physical condition. Borussia, who had hoped to avoid such a spate of injuries which badly hit their chances last season, lost their stopper Sieloff before the campaign had even began. He had to submit to an operation on his achilles tendon.

Fabulous striker

Germany's Footballer of the Year is Günter Netzer (28), the brilliant schemer of Borussia M.G. and of the national side. Netzer, who holds 30 caps and has been with the club since 1963, was instrumental in Germany's victory in the European Championship last June. He collected 417 out of a total of 694 votes cast by the country's leading sports journalists. Second placed was that fabulous striker Gerd Müller (127 votes), followed by Franz Beckenbauer (102), Paul Breitner (26), Sepp Maier (5) and Uli Hoeness (4).

The opening day of the Bundesliga championship, following so closely on the Olympic Games, during which the public had been saturated with televised, printed and spoken sport, the gates were what can only be described as catastrophic. Merely 130,000 fans turned up for the nine games. It was by far the lowest total ever registered at the start of the season. Gone are the days when 348,000 fans, or on another occasion 283,000 flocked to the grounds. Never before has the figure dropped below 200,000!

The subsequent rounds brought a slight improvement with 200,000 (for a mid-week date), then fell to 143,000 before rising to 175,000. It is of course too early to draw definite conclusions, but the reasons for his slump have—unlike in England—nothing to do with hooliganism, which by comparison is virtually negligible here.

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SAN LORENZO, THE...

SURPRISING CHAMPIONS

South American Round-up . . . from ERIC WEIL

SAN LORENZO won the Argentine Metropolitan First Division Championship with four games to go as they had by then obtained a nine-point lead, thus proving once again that 13 is their lucky number. They last won the title in 1968, but their other four championship wins have come every 13 years—1933, 1946, 1959 and 1972.

The point about this year's San Lorenzo is that they have put up almost as many poor performances as good ones, yet often they earned a point when they deserved to lose, or won when they barely deserved a draw. In accumulating points they set up a regularity which none of their rivals could equal and they gradually dropped further behind. As is natural, even a not too good team gained confidence—and their defensive failings became less apparent—with a comfortable lead at the top of the table.

For half the season San Lorenzo seemed to rely mostly on sending the ball to Fischer to score, which made it all the more surprising when they decided to sell him to Brazilian club Botafogo. With Fischer gone, however, San Lorenzo seemed, if anything, to improve and Ayala came to the forefront as scorer. There was another surprise when Sanfilippo, their former rebellious goal-scoring forward was signed as now, at 37, he was way past his best. Yet this move also came off and brought the club goals and some semblance of organisation in attack.

Destined

In fact, it was a season in which San Lorenzo seemed to do all the wrong things and they all came off. Shortly after the start of the season they engaged Juan Carlos Lorenzo as coach who had failed with them on two previous occasions. Under Lorenzo the team has not shown a defined style, except that they continually have seven or eight players destined to mark the opposition all over the field.

Goalkeeper Irusta is very safe and has saved them a number of points, while Telch, a versatile half, is the barometer of the team. When he plays well, the whole team responds and vice-versa.

With three games to go in the Metropolitan First Division, Brindisi (Huracan) is leading scorer with 19 goals and placings are as follows:

(1) San Lorenzo 45 pts.; (2) Velez Sarsfield, Racing Club 38; (4) River Plate, Newells Old Boys 37; (6) Huracan 35; (7) Rosario Central, Chacarita Juniors 34; (9) Colon de Santa Fee 33; (10) Boca Juniors, Independiente 32; (12) Estudiantes de La Plata 31; (13) Argentinos Juniors 29; (14) Atlanta 27; (15) Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata 25; (16) Ferrocarril Oeste 21; (17) Banfield 18; (18) Lanus 12.

Enrique Omar Sivori, of Juventus fame, has been named national team coach by the Argentine FA.

As a result of the incidents in the Argentina-Yugoslavia third place play-off in the Independence Cup, in Brazil, Semenewicz (Independiente) and Dominichi (River Plate) were suspended for four and three months respectively, for all games, by the Argentine FA. However, when it appeared that the Yugoslav FA had not taken any measures with their players involved, these suspensions were reduced to being valid for international matches only.

Dope tests have started in Argentine soccer, but is the method any good? The match at which players were to be tested was chosen the previous Thursday. Urine samples were taken from three players of each team only after the players had been to the changing room and had a shower.

URUGUAY

Every season one small club has a good run in the Uruguayan First Division which lends some interest to the Nacional-Peñarol dominated competition. This year it is Defensores who top the table after six games with 11 pts., followed by Nacional 10, Peñarol, 8, Huracan Buceo 7, River Plate, and Sudamerica 5, Cerro and Rentistas 4, Danubio and Liverpool 3, Bella Vista and Central Español 2.

Pierino Lattuada, the 21-year-old Liverpool forward who was expelled from the national team because he refused to cut his long hair, has been transferred to Burdeos (France).

LEAGUE STANDINGS ELSEWHERE

BRAZIL

Rio Championship (3rd round—final): (1) Vasco da Gama 11 pts.; (2) Botafogo 10; (3) Flamengo 9; (4) Olaria 8; America 8; ((6) Bonsucesso 6; (7) Fluminense 3; (8) Sao Cristovao 1. (Vasco do Gama plays for title with Flamengo and Fluminense, winners of 1st and 2nd round.)

PERU

National Championship (after 7 games): (1) Defensor Lima, Aurich de Chiclava, SIMA 10; (4) Melgar 9; (5) Universitario 8; (6) Sport Boys, Alianza Lima, Sporting Cristal, Atletico Grau, Juan Galvez de Chimbote 7; (11) Municipal, Arica, Tuman 6; (14) Carlos Manucci 5; (15) León de Huanuco 4; (16) Torino 3.

CHILE

First Division (after 18 games): (1) Colo-Colo 28 pts.; (2) Union Española 26; (3) Green Cross 24; (4) Universidad Catolica 23; (5) La Serena, Concepción, Universidad de Chile 21; (8) Huachipato 20; (9) Magallanes 19; (10) Lota Schwager 18; (11) Naval 16; (12) Antofagasta 15; (13) La Calera, San Felipe, O'Higgins 12; (16) Rangers, Wanderers 11; (18) Everton 10.

PARAGUAY

First Division (after 15 games): (1) Cerro Porteño 23 pts.; (2) Olimpia 22; (3) Sol de America 21; (4) Nacional 15; (5) Guarani 14 ; (6) Sportivo Luqueño 13; (7) General Caballero, Libertad 12; (9) River Plate 10; (10) Presidente Hayes 8.

ATTENDANC AS CRIS

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

ENGLISH football, which once upon a time served as a model to the rest of the world, is stumbling from one crisis into another this season. On top of the apparently uncontrollable hooliganism, the over 500 bookings in the first six weeks of the League programme, and the inflationary transfer fees for mediocre performers, comes an alarming slump in attendances. And this has evidently little to do with the live transmissions from the Olympic Games, but is quite clearly caused by the disenchantment of the public. Playing standards have been low and in addition the image of professional soccer in this country suffered further damage with the startling disclosure of attempts at bribery. Three Wolves' players are said to have been approached to "throw" their last League game, so that Leeds could become champions last season.

Affairs like these are not likely to persuade the fans to renew their interest in the game. English football has always been—justifiably—proud of its massive following, which proportionately remains the highest in Europe. On average 31,352 spectators visit a First Division match; next best figures are reported by Russia with 30,056, followed by Italy on 29,557, per game. Such statistics must, of course, be viewed in their proper context, not least in relation to the size of population.

Chauvinism

They are not necessarily indicative of the quality of football played in those countries, but mainly because in some of the large industrial centres—in England notably in the North—there are, for the working classes, only limited facilities for other diversions. The same is probably true of Russia, whilst in Italy strong local chauvinism helps to swell the crowds in centres like Milan, Naples or even Rome. They have no such potent allegiance elsewhere, though attendances at football matches in Madrid, Rotterdam or Munich (since the Olympic stadium was built), are on a par with those anywhere in Europe.

Real Madrid are still enormously popular on account of their glorious past. The six-times winners of the European Cup have a large club membership, which contributes to keep their gates well above average. Other Spanish clubs also benefit from similar set-ups. Feyenoord Rotterdam have for some years consistently averaged over 40,000 per League game. They draw more fans than their famous Amsterdam rivals Ajax, because the current European champions are playing League matches in their own smaller stadium. Bayern Munich are now drawing 80,000 to some championship games, as against Schalke in the final fixture of last season.

In Italy, a local derby in Milan and some famous visitors there, like Juventus for instance, still attracts 80-90,000 fans. The same figures apply to AS Roma, who play in the Olympic stadium. In Naples the SSC Napoli can claim what is probably a world record of over 50,000 season ticket holders alone! Equally interesting is the fact, that in Russia last season there was a rise of 74,500 spectators. Overall attendances in the First Division of the Soviet Union for 1971 (their programme runs from spring till autumn) totalled 7,243,500 in 241 games, thus averaging 30,056 fans per match.

The country boasts three grounds with a capacity of over 100,000 in Moscow, Kiev and Leningrad. The highest aggregates were as follows: Dynamo Kiev 895,000 (average 59,600); Ararat Erewan 713,000 (av. 47,500); Karpaty Lwow 566,000 (av. 37,700). And these are all provincial clubs, since the first Moscow outfit Spartak, who drew 448,000 (av. 29,600) appear only in sixth place!

Precipitated

Now, one of the most potent arguments put forward as a reason for the decline in English League gates is the trend toward defensive football. It has also been suggested that these methods have been precipitated by the various European cup competitions and their system of home and away legs, which has allegedly persuaded most English teams to play with excessive caution.

Statistics have also been prepared to support these views, especially the fact, that the Football League champions, in the past 11 years, required far fewer goals then ever before to achieve their target. It is true that in the period between 1957 and 1961 for example, most champion teams managed to score over 100 goals each season. This represents an average of 103.2 goals per club.

But during the past five years the First Division champion team required merely 72.8 goals in their 42 matches. Manchester City (86 goals), Leeds (66), Everton (72, Arsenal (71) and last term Derby County (69) needed exactly 30 goals fewer, than their predecessors like Manchester United (103 goals), Wolves twice (103 and 110), Burnley (86) and Tottenham (115)!

The goal average which has been steadily dropping in England reached the quote of 2.51 per match last season. This figure is *exceeded* by 16 European countries! For years, and with reference to the slump in attendances, the public have been demanding a return to attacking or at least more entertaining football. And every year at the start of a new season, nearly every manager in the Football League promises a new approach, but after a couple of bad results all the ambitious plans are swept under the carpet and its back to the mixture as before.

Is it any wonder that the long suffering British soccer followers are deserting the grounds? Because most First Division teams have achieved virtually the same level of mediocrity and there is little to choose between them, nobody plays in adventurous style for fear of losing! Even Manchester United, once famed for their attacking flair, have been using only two strikers and this even in home matches!

There is no denying that our clubs do undertake too many commitments and such overloaded programmes offer few opportunities to try new methods. "Safety first" remains the motto of most managers who in this highly competitive set-up simply cannot afford any experiments. Tottenham's respected chief Bill Nicholson said recently: "Our football is becoming just like that in Italy. It is a matter of economics and now we simply can't afford to lose matches."

Stereotyped

But is it Nicholson's or Tottenham's fault that present attitudes prevent displays of entertaining soccer? There can be little doubt that the stereotyped League football has driven many fans away, whilst the boredom on the field has caused the remaining morons and rowdies to launch their own spectacle of "thrills" by battling with each other, or with the police. But there are other important factors responsible for the drain of interest.

Some English observers, loath to admit shortcomings in their own backyard, have tried to put the blame on European soccer. But the public

CES DECLINE
SIS LOOMS

obviously think on different lines. A year ago a national newspaper conducted an inquiry among its readers to find out why they have deserted the football grounds. The poll produced some startling revelations: 74 per cent stated that hooliganism was their principal reason for not attending any more soccer matches; 65 per cent complained of too defensive football; 49 per cent said too expensive; 44 per cent—poor facilities; 29 per cent—violent play; 21 per cent—too much soccer; 20 per cent—prefer to spend Saturday with the family; 18 per cent—over-paid players; 17 per cent—poor standards of refereeing and 9 per cent said there was too much soccer on television already!

I am, frankly, more than a little surprised that amidst the flurry of suggestions, proposals and new ideas from all quarters, no one as yet seems prepared to tackle the problem of defensive football at its roots. I would abolish that archaic system of goal average still fondly used in the English Football League. Why has no one yet realised that this method of deciding championships or relegation simply encourages defensive football. Once again England stand isolated from the rest of the world. The highest authorities, like FIFA and UEFA, most countries and even neighbouring Scotland have for some time been using goal difference.

No wonder that preventing rather than scoring goals has become imperative in English football. Who needs to go all out for goals when under the goal-average system a 2—0 win is worth more than a 10—1 victory! Here is another example of how our League methods favour defensive minded teams: A club which scores 30 goals whilst conceding 15 is—if level on points—better placed than a team who has scored 60 goals, but let in 31.

It is clear that by using goal difference, teams which score more often are accordingly rewarded. Unfortunately in England there are too many authorities but not enough individuals ready to fight for the necessary reforms. Until this happens, most English teams and their suffering fans will still be cheering a 1—0 victory louder than a 5—4 win!

The problem of hooliganism is, of course, not one which the sporting bodies can successfully tackle, but one which the authorities must solve, even if the police are to be given greater powers, or the courts are to be instructed to impose much stricter penalties for all offenders.

I cannot see how those rowdies who cause "grievious bodily harm", or members of the gang of Nottingham Forest "fans" who threw a 15-year-old Aston Villa supporter into the river Trent, can escape merely with monetary fines or suspended sentences.

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News from Hungary by LESLIE VERNON

Depressing symptoms evident as attendances nosedive . . .

THE Hungarian league season is hardly one month old, yet all the depressing symptoms are in evidence. Poor attendance figures, abysmal standard of play, lack of ambition, and inconsistent refereeing typify the proceedings. In Round 4, 28,000 people took the trouble to attend the eight matches—for a derisory average of just over 3,500 per game.

Ferencvaros, the most popular Hungarian club, met Zalaegerszeg in the vast Nep Stadium in the presence of 4,000 people, and champions Dozsa entertained the attractive Videoton side at Ujpest in front of less than 3,000 spectators. Yet the clubs did fairly well in Europe. The Olympic Games runners-up spot wasn't a bad effort. There is no hooliganism on the terraces, admission prices are reasonable.

Let's pretend that this sudden disenchantment with football is merely a phase—perhaps a back-lash of the over-exposed Olympic Games on television—and matters will gradually improve. Here is a club by club run-down of the first few weeks of the campaign.

Honved (7pts)

Opened the season with a goal after only 15 seconds, against Csepel, and have stayed in the winning groove ever since. Coach Meszaros successfully introduced two young newcomers—Egervari at right full-back, and Kiss in the forward line—into the side, and both Kocsis and Kozma are playing with verve and enthusiasm. Their best wins were 2—0 at Salgotarjan and, of course, the 3—0 triumph at Glasgow against Partick in the UEFA Cup. Now they are paired with the high-scoring Bernestara in this competition, but in their present mood, they should reach the Third Round.

Ferencvaros (6pts)

Following an easy win over Egyetertes, the green-and-whites ran into trouble against Raba. Laszlo Branikovits was sent off in the 19th minute for an attempted kick at an opponent, and Szoke followed him into the dressing room in the 37th minute, when ref. Hamori dismissed him from the field for dissent. The outraged Fradi players fought like the proverbial lions and led by Albert, the 9-man team won the game 4—11 But the following week, their emergency right-wing pair (Engelbrecht—Juhasz) didn't function at all and they were beaten at Szekesfehervar 3—1. A humiliating 1—0 defeat at Malta was revenged to the tune of 6—0 at home against Valetta, and now they will play Sparta Prague in the Cup Winners' Cup. The potential is certainly there, but several of the Olympians, (Pancsics, Balint, Ku) are off-form.

Vasas (6pts)

Manager Lajos Baroti has already shown that there is a new spirit in the club. In their first game, they thrashed Ujpest Dozsa 3—0—a great confidence booster for youngsters Szabo, Gass, and Bela Varadi, who is destined to be an internationally rated star forward in the near future.

Vidats, back from injury, Ihasz, full-back Fabian, and Tamas in goal, represent the older generation, but there is no friction between the various age groups.

M.T.K. (6pts)

After the disasters of the previous season, the blue-and-whites are at last producing football in accordance with the club's fine reputation. Manager Geza Kalocsai relies on a settled formation rather than chopping and changing the team week after week. They are still unbeaten, and should finish in the first six without any trouble. Their drawn game at Tatabanya (2—2) has been the best match of the season so far.

Csepel (5pts)

Using a 4-2-4 system, and a completely re-shaped forward line (Bartos, Nemeth, Szurgent, and Vizi) coach Keszthelyi has given the team a new look. Their 3—1 win over Vasas indicated that they could be an equal to any club in the league, although more consistency is needed.

Tatabanya (5pts)

With one win and three draws, they are still undefeated, and are the highest placed provincial club. However, the team only averaged one goal per match, and they can thank a strong defence for the satisfactory results. Changes will be made in the attack, and with the help of the ageless midfield orchestrator Goroes, they might finish in a UEFA Cup position. As it is, Tatabanya are representing Hungary in the Mitropa Cup this season, having been drawn in the same group as Bologna and Dynamo Zagreb.

Ujpest Dozsa (4pts)

The champions have lost their appetite for domestic football and came second best at Vasas and Gyor, where a Horvath own-goal gave the home side a 1—0 win. A 5—0 victory over Egyetertes and 3—1 v. Videoton shows that Dozsa might be back in the race soon—they still have the strongest squad of players in the country. Laszlo Harsanyi, a 21-years-old newcomer, bedded down successfully in the centre-back position, and Fazekes has happily regained full fitness. Andras Toth is playing consistently well at midfield, and Bene plays with such dynamism that his recall for national duty must only be a matter of time. The two Dunais (who are *not* related) are suffering from a Munich hang-over, and Peter Juhasz must be dreaming of yellow discs—he has been shown so many of them by the referees.

Dozsa, although not in top form, won easily enough against Basle in the European Cup. The 2—0 home win was strengthened by a Bene goal in Switzerland. But instead of coasting the rest of the game, Ujpest relaxed too much and found themselves 3—1 down. A prodigal Szentmihalyi save from Balmer and a powerful shot from the effervescent centre-forward, Bene, gave them a tie on a 4—3 aggregate. But they must learn to concentrate for 180 minutes if they are to gain the expected revenge against Celtic in the next round.

Videoton, Raba and Komlo are also on 4 points, and these run-of-the-mill provincial clubs won't have any relegation worries. Salgotarjan, their stunning achievements of last season forgotten, are struggling near the foot of the table. Beaten by AEK in the UEFA Cup, their league form has also been dismal, due mainly to loss of confidence and the absence of key midfield players Szalai and Repas. Pecs, whose vital statistics read P. 4., W. 0., D. 3., L. 1., F. 1., A. 2., Diosgyor, and Egyetertes, alongside the well-supported, newly promoted clubs Szeged and Zalaegerszeg, are in for a tough fight, with relegation a distinct, frightening possibility.

ERIC BATTY selects his WORLD BEST XI

IF ONLY THEY COULD PLAY!

Banks
(Stoke City & England)

Dobias
(Spartak Trnava & Czechoslovakia)

Schwarzenbeck
(Bayern Munchen & W. Germany

Moore
(West Ham & England)

Breitner
(Bayern Munchen & W. Germany)

Beckenbauer
(Bayern Munchen & W. Germany)

Netzer
(Borussia Monchengladbach & W. Germany)

Cruyff
(Ajax & Holland)

Muller
(Bayern Munchen & W. Germany)

Jairzinho
(Botafogo & Brazil)

Lubanski
(Gornik Zabrze & Poland)

SOUTH American football appears to be going through a bad patch with Uruguay exporting her best players, Brazil importing them and Peru, who can produce such superb, spontaneous attacking football, still unable to make it pay against physically stronger and defensively better prepared teams. Even Argentina, dominating though they have been in the South American's champions Cup and producers of so many of the all-time greats seem to have lost their way.

Perhaps the Argentine once the home of Di Stefano, Pedernera, Sivori, Ricagni have not so much lost their way, but chosen to follow the wrong way—reproducing some of the worst features of the game as it is played in Italy, England and the USSR!

Gone back

Even in the Mini World Cup, staged under conditions (at home) which were ideal for them, the Brazilians, despite narrowly winning the trophy, have clearly gone back. Without Pele—albeit a mini-Pele that we saw in Mexico two years ago—they also suffered because several other players, outstanding in Mexico have gone off the boil.

I refer, of course, to Gerson, Rivelino and Tostao who are now not half the men they were. Of all the Brazilian 'stars' only Jairzinho lived up to his reputation during the mini World Cup and with the game in Europe still desperately short of international class (not to mention World Class) wingers, Jairzinho would be an automatic choice for almost anyone.

As always in my annual selection for WORLD SOCCER, the emphasis is on class and skill above all else. I make no reference to tactics which is a point of minimal importance compared with skill and intelligence.

I also apologise to fans of three players in particular for whom regretfully I cannot find a place. The first is Berti Vogts of Borussia Monchengladbach and West Germany who would have got my place at right back had he not spent so much of the past twelve months inactive through injury. The others are very, very close runners up for positions at inside left and outside left—Piet Keizer of Ajax and Holland and Yugoslavia's Dragan Dzajic. I would have liked to include them both but alas a thirteen man team is not allowed in soccer.

I make no apologies for those I have included for each in his own right is a star, able to 'play' in the tightest of situations and all noted for their ability. Even the back four have real skill and attacking flair and for once we even have a stopper who can and frequently does move up and play in the shape of the burly Schwarzenbeck.

Many people would perhaps have felt bound to make a clear choice between England's Moore and the West German star Beckenbauer. For me, however, both men are too good to be left out. Beckenbaur—perhaps the most skilful player in the world right now—is just as effective in an orthodox midfield role as he is when coming forward from 'behind'. I made my choice and stand by it: I want them both.

Organise

Alongside Beckenbauer I have taken Gunter Netzer, a comparative newcomer to the international scene—but what a player. He has perhaps improved a bit since 1970 but one wonders why, although included in the Mexico squad, he wasn't in the German team for the last World Cup? Aged 28, he has made an international name for himself rather late but his ability to organise and 'Boss' the midfield regions is indisputable.

Although this was not done wittingly the front four in my team appear to be an ideal blend. Jairzinho is strong, quick and direct; Cruyff is adroit, skilful and intelligent, while Lubanski is a near-perfect all-rounder, a veteran at 25 and Muller is MULLER . . . der bomber.

What a prospect this selection presents—if only we had the opportunity to see them perform together. But against whom? Bring in Dzajic or Keizer for Jairzinho and we 'could' see it in a seriously proposed and well supported Europe v South America.

Compared with the dull, ultra-defensive, over-physical football I see every week, the thought of seeing Beckenbauer, Netzer, Cruyff, Muller and Lubanski all turn out together recalls the magic of the past. The games and names come readily to mind. . . . Hungary v England: Hungary v Uruguay; Real Madrid v Eintracht Frankfurt; Benfica v Real Madrid (5-3) . . . Kopa, Di Stefano, Puskas, Kocsis . . . Mannion, Matthews, Carter, Doherty.

Come to think of it, I don't think I'll bother to go and see a game this weekend after all.

WE REMEMBER THE NICE GUYS

by ERIC THORNTON

WE'VE always a spot of spare time for the good types. Especially those of extra ability who always remember how they came up and are eternally grateful to the friends who proffered helping hands plus good advice in the tough, early years.

So many forget the old townies when they've climbed to the summit and are happily counting the shekels of gold while living in stockbroker country that it's always pleasant to note the better characters.

Some don't care for the backward glances to those days of street soccer with a bit of shirt peeping out of a hole in the pants, and a stinging clout from the old man when caught dodging traffic to retrieve the ball.

I could list dozens who don't remember the beginnings, and stoutly deny ever having stood on a rain drenched terrace and then walked home after waiting outside the dressingroom doors for autographs.

There are others, of course. Such as Billy Bremner, Alan Ball, Peter Osgood, Roy McFarland, Kevin Keegan, Malcolm Macdonald, Ron Davies, Peter Dobbing, Mike England, Bobby Charlton, and—yes—George Best.

Lambasted

Now, there's a star who gets lambasted as a Big Head when, actually, he is anything but that. Here's a little story to prove it. Just after he had hit six Cup goals against Northampton Town, in a scoring semiquaver that won sports headlines in every corner of the earth, and was being lauded to the skies by the fans, the Irishman remembered his own wistful days back in Belfast.

For he noticed a white-faced young boy cosily wrapped in an invalid wheel chair waiting patiently and hopefully with a well thumbed autograph book. He had been specially allowed to stay there for a while after the match to collect some new ones. Matt Busby had signed, and so had some of the others.

But here was The Big Star. He didn't think he'd be lucky, but he was. Because Best strode over from the crowd, dropped his own case, fumbled for a pen, took the book, signed, then had a few quiet words with the youngster, whose delight was shining from his eyes.

Here's another of the same fraternity. I give you Charlie Wright, the soccer wanderer who has known the rich and the poor, the top echelon and the bottom drawer, the A to Z of a professional's life.

Up in Scotland, they still talk of Cheerful Charlie. Just as they remember Good Old Charlie in the south and the north of the English scene. For this particular Charlie had played for Rangers, Morton, Grimsby, Workington and Charlton before he moved to Burnden Park, and joined Bolton's battle for survival.

Yet he remains the same human being who originally learned the game in the built-up surburbs of Glasgow, where they know more than a thing or two about football, and are never short of memories.

First-choice

Most of the guys who were around in his formative days have vanished since that era when Charlie first began making an impression this side of the border after being voted first-choice goalkeeper for Workington, and playing immediately behind Alex Rollo and George Aitken.

He had his eyes on the stars, like the rest, always noting the success of such rival topliners of the fifties as Gil Merrick, George Farm, Reg Matthews, Ted Burgin, Harry Gregg, Ron Springett, Albert Dunlop, Bert Trautmann, Gordon Banks, Alf Kelsey, and so on.

That's going back quite a bit. Possibly before many of today's enthusiasts were even a sparkle in Dad's eye. But, believe it or not, Our Charlie is still taking stick between the posts.

Coaching

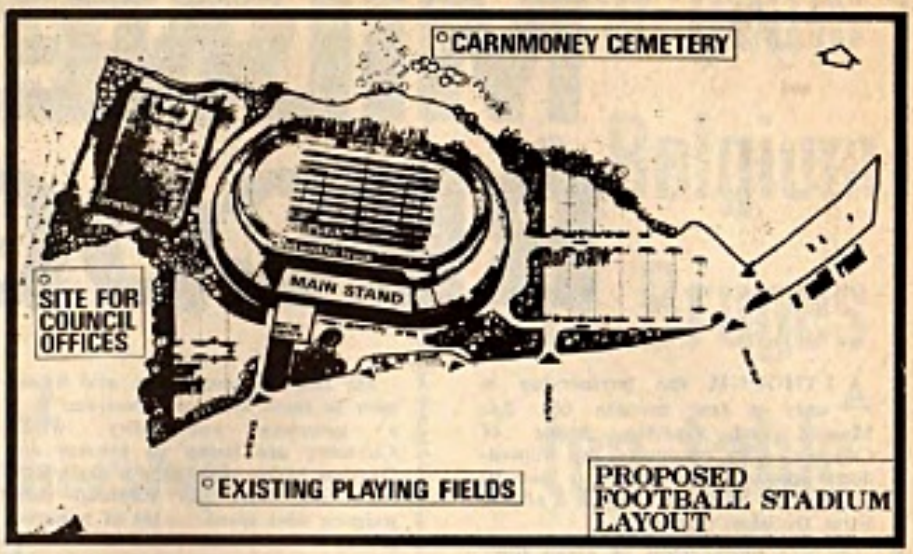
The moustachioed six-footer with the friendly smile and the giant hands who has just completed a coaching course at Lilleshall will be the last line of defence once again for Wanderers, in their next Third Division fixture.

So help me! How many games has this feller played? That's what you're obviously thinking, and so it may not surprise you to learn that Mister Charles Wright has just completed FIVE HUNDRED appearances in senior soccer at all League levels—and is handing over the tips to Bolton's 17-year-old second string 'keeper Barry Siddall, then challenging the boy for the first-team spot and winning the vote!

Peter Osgood, playing for Chelsea against West Bromwich.

COLIN McALPIN reports on the latest developments in Northern Ireland

NEW GROUND FOR CRUSADERS



The proposed £750,000 stadium for Distillery. The Irish League club hope to start work on the 16-acre site on the outskirts of Belfast in time for an opening in 1974.

THE two clubs hardest hit by the civil unrest in Northern Ireland—Distillery and Derry City—have travelled in opposite directions to give the local game a happy story and a sad one. For Distillery, forced out of Grosvenor Park to share with Crusaders at Seaview, have just announced plans for a £750,000 stadium in Newtownabbey and Derry City, forced out of Brandywell Road to share with Coleraine at the Showgrounds, have just announced their withdrawal from the Irish League.

As a journalist and football fan, the Derry story gives me least pleasure to write. They fought a gallant battle to stay in business—in the face of almost totally-empty terraces and mounting financial problems—but in the end had to call it a day over an incident that leaves a very bad taste in the mouth. They were, in short, forced out of the game by what can only be described as a "gang-up" over their "back to Brandywell" campaign.

Simple

The facts are simple. They were forced to leave Brandywell, on the edge of Londonderry's Bogside, last season following an incident involving a coach hired by visiting Ballymena United and the growing reluctance of some teams to play in that unhappy city.

City were taken in by Coleraine, but it was a move that could never have brought any measure of success. They could not sell season tickets for supporters were unwilling to travel to another town for 'home' games and, consequently, their attendances at the Showgrounds were poor to say the least.

Even before the move clubs like Linfield and Glentoran were forbidden by the security authorities to travel to Brandywell, but City found they could just about manage with the other clubs playing there.

Some weeks ago the security authorities gave the all-clear to Brandywell and, with the exception of Linfield and Glentoran, announced that it was, in their opinion, safe to resume football there.

Derry, who had registered both Brandywell and the Showgrounds, asked the Irish League to back the return officially. Many players were still reluctant to travel but the League failed to make any concrete decision . . . until it was too late.

Meeting

City stuck to their guns. Brandywell it must be, they said, or nothing. The League held a meeting to decide the issue and at it Linfield and Glentoran decided not to vote on the grounds that they wouldn't be involved anyway. That, obviously, didn't suit the League so another meeting was called to consider a proposal from Portadown that there should be a return to Brandywell.

And at this second meeting Linfield and Glentoran did vote, against the move. In a recent Linfield programme the move was explained thus: "As Linfield had been excluded from playing at Brandywell by the security authorities' latest ruling, it was felt by the club management committee that we should abstain. But following a strong suggestion from the League that Linfield should record a vote, the management met to consider the matter.

"As a result, a decision was taken unanimously on how the club should vote, bearing in mind our responsibility to our players and supporters."

That phrase "a strong suggestion from the League" is the one I don't like. It suggests the obvious, a point City League representative Willie Wilton emphasised when he said that had Linfield and Glentoran stuck to their original abstention the voting would have gone in favour of the return. As it was six clubs voted against, five for and Coleraine, conveniently, didn't vote at all!

City, who at considerable cost to themselves, have kept the game alive in the city and for the city. Formed in 1928 by some local businessmen the club has known greatness. They won the Irish Cup in 1949, 1954 and 1964 and the League in 1965.

It is a sad end to their fight. An end that comes in the thick of a struggle to save the entire structure of Irish League football. It is a struggle the game itself is not doing much to win if this is to be the best they can do.

Good news

From Distillery comes the good news . . . and boy do we need it! The Whites, who though badly hit have never been in such trouble as City (in fact, they contended the Ulster Cup right to the end and though they topped the table on goal average found Coleraine being handed the trophy via two points awarded for the game they should have played against Derry City), are currently involved in negotiations with Newtownabbey Council for a 16-acre site on O'Neill Road on which to build their £750,000 sports complex . . . planned for 1974.

Distillery have always been anxious to move into a more permanent home than the shared Seaview and when they were invited to consider a move to the booming Newtownabbey, just outside Belfast, did so eagerly.

MILNE AND RECOGNISE

ALTHOUGH the partnership is only a few months old, Joe Mercer and Gordon Milne of Coventry City recognise the tremendous amount of work they face in putting the Midland club in a strong First Division position.

It is a partnership, if given time, could produce the kind of results that chairman Derrick Robins has been seeking since the departure of Jimmy Hill from the Highfield Road scene.

Contrary to what a lot of people might think, Gordon Milne and Coventry City need the wise counsel of Joe Mercer in this difficult period.

He has the experience and know-how in these kind of situations. It is a priceless commodity which Coventry are lucky to possess and Gordon Milne will learn a great deal from the wily old England campaigner who speaks a lot of common sense.

I think his contribution to the success of Manchester City has been proved within a few months of his departure from Maine Road.

Some soccer personalities are often not cut out for soccer managership while others need a wind-break. It seems that Malcolm Allison falls into the second category.

Suddenly he has discovered the pressures of soccer managership and without Joe Mercer to smooth the path clear he has run into some heavy weather with the kind of results that turn managers grey overnight.

The disturbing feature is that Manchester City have lost matches by some big scores and the team did not respond to the many changes that Allison made in the early weeks of the season.

It could well have materialised that the cooling influence of Joe Mercer might have weathered this storm and allowed Allison more time to work on the playing faults which have developed to alarming proportions.

Joe Mercer (left) with Gordon Milne.

Doldrums

Instead, Mercer has turned his undoubted talents to helping the cause of Coventry City. The situation is not quite so bad as when he was called in to pull Manchester City up out of the doldrums but there are problems that everyone can see in the present side.

Mercer and Milne realise the task confronting them at this crucial time but they appreciate there is a need to stabilise the situation.

The crowds have slumped badly at Coventry. It isn't the first time this has occurred at Highfield Road because it is generally well known that the Coventry population is very cosmopolitan.

Slumped

With such a support they are fanatics in their support for a winning team but their patience has slowly been drained away by a team which has slumped badly over the past two seasons.

One of the reasons was the predominance of defensive play when Coventry achieved a new club record for the low number of goals they conceded. But they became set in their play and when they did attempt to break clear they only succeeded in leaving big gaps in their defence.

MERCER TASK...

BRIAN MARSHALL on the new partnership at Coventry City

Mercer, well qualified for his public relations, admits that in the present circumstances he cannot blame the fans for not wanting to watch Coventry City. Typically he says: "It is up to everyone at Highfield Road to make the fans come back and watch us play.

Overnight

"No one else can do this. It's a problem we've got to lick ourselves. And it won't be achieved overnight. Football is a funny old game. We've got to work hard."

Milne, who is as different as chalk and cheese in relation to the brash Malcolm Allison, is the man who must set the swing in motion. It is up to him and his coach, Tommy Casey, to inject a new spirit into the side.

No one doubts for one moment that they do not possess the talent. With such players as Bill Glazier, Jeff Blockley, Willie Carr and Ernie Hunt in the side they have the basis of a good side.

The probem over the years at Coventry has been the lack of goals. They have had an assortment of strikers from George Hudson down to Chris Chilton. No one as yet has produced the goods. Perhaps the pressure to score goals has been too great.

Struggled

This is a problem that Milne will have to solve very quickly. Young Bill Rafferty has been given a chance to prove his worth but he too has struggled through lack of support.

Frankly, when I saw them in action I was immediately struck by their tactics of playing without orthodox wingers. In one match against West Bromwich Albion they could have

Willie Carr of Coventry.

clinched both points if they had applied the right sort of pressure on teenage 'keeper Peter Latchford, who was suspect to the high crosses.

This is just one facet but important because Milne, highly respected as a coach, is starting from scratch and there is an obvious need to get the fundimentals right at the beginning.

Milne also knows that it is very much a team game and this applies off the field. With the guiding hand of Joe Mercer behind him he could make big strides up the soccer ladder.

Perhaps he will have to go into the transfer market but first he must lick the present crew into shape. His success or failure depends upon the vital months when a lucky break could set them off on a winning run which could culminate in fresh and over-due honours for Coventry City, a club which over the past decade has pioneered several innovations in the game which in turn have been copied by other clubs.

Mercer and Milne is the partnership they are hoping will achieve this ambition.

Few goals in Belgium as Bruges top table

GOALSCORING has reached a new low level in Belgium. After five matches by each club in the championship, the highest scorers were Bruges and Beerschot with eight each.

It has at least enabled Bruges to top the table although they have dropped two points in drawn games. But since one of these was away to Standard Liege in a bruising affair, this is quite an achievement.

With no goals around it is hardly surprising that the leading marksman is only on three goals. In fact three players have tied on three each—two of them foreigners—Ulrik Le Fevre the Dane with Bruges and Robby Rensenbrink the Dutch winger of Anderlecht.

Bowed out

The disappointment of the season to date have been Racing White who were expected to shine with their new look side. In fact in the League they have managed only a point a game and bowed out to the Portuguese side CUF in the UEFA Cup, the only goal of the tie being an own goal by a Racing defender.

Belgium's 2—0 victory over Norway in a World Cup qualifying match has put them into a good position at the top of Group Three unbeaten in three games. Naturally the big test has yet to come and Holland on the 19th November will be a different proposition.

Unlucky

But at least the Belgians have not conceded a goal as yet and if it comes to a tie on points with Holland this could be of vital importance.

It looks as if it is going to be an unlucky year for Wilfried Van Moer the international midfield player. He missed the latter stages of the European Championship with a broken leg sustained against Italy and back in action in the championship has been injured again.

Crash programme for Soviet clubs

FOLLOWING the break for the Olympics, Russia's First Division clubs face a crash programme of two games a week to complete the league programme before winter closes in. Zaria Vorochilovgrad, the pace-makers, got behind with their fixtures to allow the Army club ZSKA Moscow to take over the lead temporarily by beating Dniepr 2—0 and Moscow Spartak 1—0.

When Zaria—promoted as Zarja Lugansk—resumed they regained the lead in one match, beating Ararat convincingly by 4—0. An early goal by their new cap Elisoev was added to by Kuznetsov and captain Jouravlev (penalty) and Semenov completed the rout of one of their closest challengers.

Three points

Meanwhile, ZSKA were beaten 2—0 at Kiev where 50,000 watched the reigning champions, and Kolotov scored the opening goal.

Zaria then dropped three points in three games; no doubt the strain of playing too many games without stars and adequate reserves. At home they filled their ground with 40,000 for the visit of Dynamo Thilissi (led by Gavril Katchalin) and after being a goal down could only draw 2—2 . . . another penalty from Jouravlev, saving a point.

Then they beat the much improved Dynamo Moscow 2—0 before crashing 1—3 away to ASK Rostov. ZSKA have dropped points too, however, going down 1—2 away to Dynamo Minsk and now while the Army team have five games left to play, Zaria are one point ahead and have two games in hand.

Reorganised

At the bottom of the table newly promoted Lokomotive Moscow are struggling despite having the former Dynamo Moscow inside forward Kozlov amongst the leading scorers with 9 goals. They are beginning to look like certainties for the drop along with Neftchi Baku, re-organised and much better disciplined after the fiascos of last season.

Spartak, too, are in trouble, just above them and unable to score goals (hitting only 23 in 21 games). Usually one of the most popular clubs they were watched by only 4,000 against Zenith Leningrad but through successful, ZSKA's defensive play is not proving successful either and they are playing before poor crowds at home.

EASY WIN FOR ITALY AGAINST LUXEMBOURG

IT was no surprise that Italy won 4—0 in the Grand Duchy during the World Cup Qualifying match, it would have been more sensational if Luxembourg had avoided defeat.

Included in the attack was Bamberg, the Fola striker who the previous week had scored four of his side's five goals against Tetange. But he was unable to make much impresion against the strong Italian rearguard and without some of Luxembourg's more experienced internationals around him, failed to look effective. He was replaced at half-time.

Veterans

Trainer Gilbert Legrand was not unduly disappointed over the result against the Italians and will try to build up with the best youngsters in the country. After all the veterans have never been able to achieve continually sensational results and the future must be looked at.

In fact, two goals in seven minutes killed off any chance that Luxembourg were going to pull off any kind of shock result. They did better after conceding another goal before the interval but then the Italians naturally eased up.

RAPID SHARE LEAD

TWENTY-FIVE times Austrian champions, SC Rapid have got off to their best start for some years and after seven games share the lead with neighbours Admira-Energie-Wacker, both unbeaten and each with twelve points.

Rapid, some £500,000 in debt, are relying on talented youngsters as never before, though they have retained a solid backbone of experience.

To date their stars have been unknowns, centre forward Krankl who scored twice in an opening day 6—0 win over Wiener Sportklub and left winger Gallos who has hit six goals in seven games.

Admira, with Ernst Ocwirk in charge since the back end of last season, look the more impressive and are already meeting the fate of other highly respected teams elsewhere: each week the opposition closes up to play defensively. To date, top of the table with a better goal average than Rapid, they have scored eight goals and their goalkeeper Herbert Stachovec has still to be beaten.

Stachovac is in such commanding form he is regarded as an automatic choice for the national team, led by Czech born Leopold Stastny who has watched him several times. He made his debut last season in the 4—0 win over Malta but barely got a touch to the ball.

Powerful

In addition to Stachovec, Admira have two other powerful figures in their defence, the Rumanian World Cup stopper Nicolae Lupescu, formerly with Rapid Bucharest and now 31—and ex-Hannover 96 full back Michael Polywka, whom Ocwirk brought with him from West Germany.

Newly promoted Vorwerk Bregenz and Wiener Neustadt are both at the foot of the table, Neustadt without a win, while the other 'neuling' Austria Klagenfurt have averaged a point per game and have a positive goals tally.

Rapid survived a needle game with Alpine Donawitz, important because ex-Rapid boss Gerdi Springer is now in charge of Alpine, and won 1—0 but life is becoming increasingly difficult for the leaders as everyone closes shop for the day when they meet them.

Last time out Rapid struggled to draw 1—1 away to Grazer AK who have the leading scorer (Kovacs with 7 goals); while Admira had all the play in their match against Wiener Sportklub . . . but couldn't score and drew 0—0.

BOOK REVIEWS by PHILIP RISING

MY TEAM—IN PRINT!

I WATCHED much of my early football from the terraces of Stamford Bridge and Highbury. Financed by pocket money and hard-earned paper round wages, the weekly trek to London for a professional game with a few of my pals was great fun.

But I supported neither Chelsea nor Arsenal. Blackpool was my team, although to this day I'm not sure why. Until my first visit to Bloomfield Road I had never been further north than Birmingham from my south of the Thames home.

I remember listening to the football results each week at an age when I was too young to actually go and watch matches. Blackpool's result was the one I waited for; Jackie Mudie and Ray Charnley were my heroes.

I used to go to Chelsea and Arsenal and cheer, with little enthusiasm, for the visitors. My mates thought me mad; but when Blackpool came south, with Stan Matthews still going strong, it was like Christmas Day for me.

Hooliganism

If they were playing at Highbury, I'd get to the ground about 11 in the morning. There was nothing to do but wander around and talk and laugh with others who used to arrive hours before the start. No hooliganism then to mar the proceedings.

Blackpool enjoyed a fair amount of success when they played Arsenal and Chelsea; West Ham were a different matter. Yet they were, and I suppose always will be, one of the more unfashionable clubs. Even a string of internationals, and victory in the FA Cup, couldn't change that.

As players like Matthews, Mudie, Gratrix, Parry and others faded from the scene, they were replaced by new heroes—and one in particular. Jim Armfield was a pedigree full back in an age when those who wore the number 2 and 3 shirts weren't expected to cross the halfway line.

Armfield believed otherwise. His tremendous speed brought him forward on exciting attacking sorties and he was also a defender of true class. He made the England team during the era when the national side scored more goals in six matches than is now expected in four times that many. Five against Wales and Ireland, nine against Scotland, eight against Mexico . . . Jimmy Greaves, Bobby Charlton, Johnny Haynes, these were the men who were rattling home the goals.

Yet as exhilarating was the sight of Armfield bringing a new dimension to full back play at international level. Perhaps his greatest triumph was against Spain, on a wet afternoon at Wembley. His immediate opponent was Gento, the flying winger from Real Madrid, rated the fastest player in the world.

Statistical

Armfield not only matched his illustrious opponent for speed in England's memorable 4-2 win, but still found time to attack down the right flank. Eventually he took over as captain of England, a proud day for Blackpool and all who followed them.

Literature on Blackpool, particularly of an informed, statistical nature, was never easy to acquire. Blackpool is a club rich in tradition and with a fine history, bristling with stories waiting to be told.

Fortunately for Blackpool, their history has now been bound together in book form after years of solid work by Robin Daniels, a fanatical follower of the club. I first met Robin many years ago when we shared a mutual interest in the Tangerines.

Destined

Like me, he was dismayed at the few worthwhile books available on Blackpool. Unlike me, however, he was destined to do something about it. The result of his considerable labours—**Blackpool Football, The Official Club History**—came onto the market this month, published by **Robert Hale** at £2.

The book is notable for numerous reasons. Sir Neville Cardus, that splendid writer, has penned a foreword, there are chapters on many of the outstanding personalities to have worn the club's colours over the years, interviews with Harry Johnston, Stan Mortensen, Sir Stanley Matthews, Eddie Shimwell, Jim Armfield and Tony Green. And much more, too.

I thoroughly enjoyed it, largely because it is the sort of book I have waited years to read. But you don't have to be a Blackpool fan to enjoy some most pleasant reading about one of the friendliest and most homely clubs in Britain.

It has been a good month for new arrivals on the bookstalls. I make no apologies for my annual recommendation to buy **Brian Glanville's World Football Handbook,** published by **Mayflower.** Its format follows the pattern set in previous years; but this is the sort of book in which change is unwarranted.

It sets out to provide a wealth of information and statistics about the previous year's fooball throughout the world. And it achieves its object in a neat, concise and compact way. Many books of this type provide far less in a much more bulky and cumbersome manner.

The World Football Handbook can be kept at home, in the office or even in your pocket. Followers of the world game swear by it and for 35p—an amazingly low price in this day and age—you simply cannot afford to be without it.

Three fine books from

ROBERT HALE

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ROBIN DANIELS
Foreword by
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STEADY PROG
POLAND STIL

FOOTBALL in Poland, following their victory in the recent Olympic Games, now seems destined to make steady progress, though if they were to fall back once more it would not be a great surprise. So often in the past, spearheaded by outstanding individual stars like Ernst Pol (Gornik Zabrze) and Lucjan Brychczy (Legia Warsaw), the Poles have hammered six or seven goals against the likes of Norway, Rumania, Denmark and looked like a first class side. Yet when exposed soon after to the leading European countries they have failed to make any impact and been soundly beaten.

In the last 18 months or so, the Poles have put up good performances against West Germany, Hungary, the USSR, indicating once more that they are making progress and the gold medal at Munich appears to underline the fact that they have, at long last, left the second grade of countries behind and joined the upper sect.

Great tradition

Though this remains to be proven, they will have their chance soon—meeting England and Wales in 1974 World Cup qualifying matches—but whatever the outcome of these games it is abundantly clear that since 1945 the Polish game has made solid, if somewhat inconsistent progress.

Compared with the Hungarians, Czechs and even the East Germans, the Poles were at a considerable disadvantage during the early years following the last war. In these other countries the game had only to be re-organised and administered through state institutions, but in Poland there had never previously been any great tradition for football. Neither was there very much interest in the game as a spectator sport. In 1945 they had virtually to start from scratch, as did the Bulgarians and Rumanians.

In the long term, though it took an unusually long time to prove it, the Poles had one inherent advantage over the Hungarians and the Austrians etc. They had coal with everything that goes with it. All over Europe, the dust and grime of the pits, the slag-heaps, and the knowledge that through

LEADING SCORER

Kohut (Wisla Krakow)	33
Anicla (KKS Poznan)	20
Anicla (KKS Poznan)	20
Anicla (KKS Poznan)	20
Cieslik (R. Chorzow)	11
Cieslik (R. Chorzow)	22
Kempny (Polonia Bytom)	13
Hahorek (G. Warsaw)	16
Kempny (Legia Warsaw)	21
Brychczy (L. Warsaw)	19
Soporek (LKS Lodz)	19
Liberda (Polonia Bytom) / Pol (Gornik Zabrze)	21
Norkowski (P. Byd'zcz)	17
Pol (Gornik Zabrze)	24
Liberda (Polonia Bytom)	16
Kielec (Pogon Szczecin)	18
Brychczy (L. Warsaw) / Galeczka (Z. Sosnowiec) / Wilim I (Szombierki)	18
Brychczy (L. Warsaw)	20
Lubanski (G. Zabrze)	23
Lubanski (G. Zabrze)	18
Lubanski (G. Zabrze)	24
Lubanski (G. Zabrze)	22
Jarosik (Z. Sosnowiec)	18
Jarosik (Z. Sosnowiec)	13
Lubanski (G. Zabrze) / Szymczak (G. Warsaw)	14

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESSES

Gornik Zabrze / Ruch Chorzow	10
Cracovia	6
Wisla Krakow / Legia Warsaw / Pogon Lwow / Warta Poznan	4
Polonia Bytom / Polonia Warsaw	2
LKS Lodz / Garbarnia Krakow	1

FA CUP VICTORIES

Gornik Zabrze	6
Legia Warsaw	4
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	2
Ruch Chorzow / Gwardia Warsaw / Polonia Warsaw / LKS Lodz / Wisla Krakow	1

Notes:

** After play off v. Wisla (level points): Cracovia 3 Wisla 1

† Two groups, winners played off: Ruch Chorzow 7 Polonia Bytom 0; Polonia Bytom 0 Ruch Chorzow 0

‡ Two groups, winners played off: Polonia Bytom 4 Gornik Zabrze 1; Gornik Zabrze 2 Polonia Bytom 1

		P	W	D	L	Goals F.A.	P
1946*	Regional competitions						
1947*	Regional competitions						
1948**	Cracovia	26	17	4	5	61.26	38
1949	Wisla Krakow	22	13	4	5	50.21	30
1950	Wisla Krakow	22	16	1	5	51.17	33
1951	Wisla Krakow	22	13	6	3	43.13	32
1952†	Ruch Chorzow	10	5	2	3	19.14	12
1953	Ruch Chorzow	22	17	4	1	51.14	38
1954	Polonia Bytom	20	9	6	5	36.22	24
1955	Legia Warsaw	22	12	4	6	48.21	28
1956	Legia Warsaw	22	15	4	3	65.17	34
1957	Gornik Zabrze	22	15	3	4	58.24	33
1958	LKS Lodz	22	13	6	3	61.24	32
1959	Gornik Zabrze	22	16	4	2	55.23	36
1960	Ruch Chorzow	22	12	6	4	41.29	30
1961	Gornik Zabrze	26	19	5	2	73.18	43
1962‡	Polonia Bytom	12	8	3	1	28.7	19
1962–63	Gornik Zabrze	26	19	4	3	69.26	42
1963–64	Gornik Zabrze	26	17	6	3	59.24	40
1964–65	Gornik Zabrze	26	15	7	4	61.35	37
1965–66	Gornik Zabrze	26	19	4	3	62.24	42
1966–67	Gornik Zabrze	26	16	5	5	44.20	37
1967–68	Ruch Chorzow	26	14	10	2	56.26	38
1968–69	Legia Warsaw	26	16	7	3	61.16	39
1969–70	Legia Warsaw	26	17	6	3	43.17	40
1970–71	Gornik Zabrze	26	17	5	4	43.21	39
1971–72	Gornik Zabrze	26	14	9	3	45.23	37

Note:

* Replay after 0—0 draw

FA CUP FINALS

No competition			
Ruch Chorzow	2	Wisla Krakow	0
Polonia Warsaw	1	Legia Warsaw	0
No competition			
Gwardia Warsaw	3	Wisla Krakow	1*
Legia Warsaw	5	Lechia Gdansk	0
Legia Warsaw	3	Gornik Zabrze	0
LKS Lodz	2	Gornik Zabrze	1
No competition			
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	2	Gornik Zabrze	1
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	2	Ruch Chorzow	0
Legia Warsaw	2	Polonia Bytom	1
Gornik Zabrze	4	Czarni Zagan	0
Legia Warsaw	2	Gornik Zabrze	1
Wisla Krakow	2	Rakow Czestochowa	0
Gornik Zabrze	3	Ruch Chorzow	0
Gornik Zabrze	2	Legia Warsaw	0
Gornik Zabrze	3	Ruch Chorzow	1
Gornik Zabrze	3	Zaglebie Sosnowiec	1
Gornik Zabrze	5	Legia Warsaw	2

OGRESS BUT TILL ERRATIC

Post-war survey . . . by Eric Batty

football they could escape from their lives underground, the young men of Silesia slowly began to appear amongst the countries leading players. Pol of the Gornik (Miners) Club of Zabrze was the first to claim recognition beyond the frontiers of Poland but many others were to follow.

Without doubt it has been the coalfields of Silesia that has produced the great mass of Poland's very best players. A scrutiny of the list of champions and Cup winners throws up a string of clubs from the mining area—Chorzow, Zaglebie, Polonia Bytom and of course Gornik Zabrze. Even Legia who began as C.W.K.S. Warsaw (though shown throughout the tables by their current name) have recruited heavily from Silesian clubs!

Though other Silesian clubs have staked their claim to fame from time to time the last twenty years of Polish football has been dominated by the rivalry between Gornik Zabrze and Legia. As the Army team, Legia have tremendous advantages —still able to offer commissions to their players—but Gornik through their successes have dominated the minds of Silesian youngsters and particularly in Southern Poland are far and away the most popular club. Thus they are able to take their pick from the most talented young players as they appear.

It should also be mentioned that if Silesia has produced the players, the progress made by the Poles generally has been considerably aided by a string of Hungarian coaches. They have been in demand throughout Poland—but no other club has such an affinity with Hungary as Gornik.

Gornik's achievements have been quite remarkable. Though Ruch share the lead with ten championship successes, six were recorded before the war while Gornik's titles have all been won since 1957. In addition, winning the Cup five years in a row is no mean achievement anywhere.

Underlining the supremacy of Gornik, Legia and Silesia, the Polish Olympic team in the 2-1 final win over Hungary included four men from Gornik (Kostka, Lubanski, Szoltysik and Gorgon), and three from Legia—Cmikiewicz, Gadocha and Dejna, and three more from Silesian clubs: Gut (Odra Opole), Anczok (Polonia Bytom) and Masczyk (Ruch).

European soccer awards in Paris . . . left to right (back) Centrac (Yugoslavia) the bronze boots, Antoniadis (Greece) the silver boots, Francis Lee (England) bronze; (front) A Scottish representative for Joe Harper, bronze; Gerd Muller (West Germany) gold. Piet Keizer received an award for Ajax as the best European club.

News from Switzerland . . . by ARTHUR ROTMIL

GATES SLUMP DURING GAMES

SWISS football is also beginning to count the cost of the extensive TV-coverage of the Olympic Games. Since the interest in a variety of other sports is spread perhaps more evenly here than in Britain for instance, the football programme which was continued throughout the events in Munich, was badly affected at the gate.

After the first eight rounds of the season a total of 107,400 fewer fans than at the corresponding stage last term was recorded in the 56 games played. Only time will tell whether this is just a temporary slump, such as is being experienced in some neighbouring countries, notably in West Germany. Perhaps the public only want to see the best quality soccer, for the World Cup qualifying tie versus Italy has created tremendous excitement here, with a guaranteed sell-out at the Wankdorf stadium in Berne.

Supremacy

The battle for points, which began with several surprising results, continued very tight at the top, where one or two unfancied sides seemed determined to end the Basel/Zürich supremacy, so evident in recent years as to render the championship race almost boring for the vast majority of fans supporting the lesser clubs. An important role played here the various European competitions, in which the country's top teams enjoyed a rather thin time.

Their subsequent performances were no doubt the product of elation or disappointment as applicable! Grasshoppers were in fact the only Swiss outfit to reach the next round in the UEFA tournament. Lausanne, in the same competition bowed out to the strong Yugoslav League leaders Red Star Belgrade, whilst Basel and Zürich failed at the first hurdle in the Champions' Cup and the Cup Winners' contest, to Ujpest-Dozsa and . . . Wrexham respectively.

Goalgetter

Title holders FC Basel needed to recover from an overdose of football and a much too brief summer pause, before finding their true form. The red-blues had to play their first four league games without key men in every department: goalkeeper Marcel Kunz, midfield ace and captain Karl Odermatt, plus their goalgetter Ottmar Hitzfeld. The first two were injured and the last named performed with great distinction for West Germany's Olympic team in Munich.

This 23-year-old German striker, who joined Basel from Lörrach—just across the border in the Black Forest—has now made his name in his own country. Several *Bundesliga* clubs are reported to be on his trail, with FC Cologen having made the first firm offer. Of course, Basel would like to keep him, at least for this season, but next year they may not be able to prevent Hitzfeld from realising his own ambition. And they will not be in a position even to demand a transfer fee for him, because he has not signed any contract with them!

No definite arrangements were possible before the Olympic Games, since all parties concerned had to respect Hitzfeld's amateur status and his expressed wish to participate at Munich, where incidentally he scored five goals in six matches.

Cheapest

Hitzfeld is currently studying at Lörrach, where he still lives, to become a teacher of gymnastics and mathematics! Whether he will place his professional vocation before or behind a career in paid football remains a matter of conjecture. But on present form he would clearly be an asset to any *Bundesliga* club. But at the moment Hitzfeld is the cheapest centre forward ever to grace the soccer fields of Switzerland!

Even in the semi-professional set-up of Swiss football there is little room for sentimentalities. Heinz Schneiter and Walter Eich, once stalwarts of Young Boys of Berne, who have participated in the glorious exploits of the club, including four successive championship victories (1957-60) plus a semi-final of the European Cup (1959), have been unceremoniously sacked from the posts of manager and coach respectively.

Some of the players were apparently unhappy with the division of roles between the pair, and voiced their lack of confidence in the management. Their place has been now taken by the German-born Hans-Otto Peters, who will act as player-coach.

Little FC Chiasso, from the Italian border town and only promoted this season, continued to amaze with their wholehearted performances, but also with their ability to "sneak" goals and narrow wins. Five of their initial eight goals they scored in the League, came from set pieces as follows: 1—0 win over Young Boys—Messerli converted a free kick; 1—0 v. Zürich—A free kick was prolonged to Allio who scored; 1—0 v. Sion—A penalty goal by Messerli; 1—1 v. Chaux-de-Fonds—Messerli hit home a direct free kick; 1—0 v. Fribourg—Messerli's free kick was headed into the net by Lusenti.

Analogy

And here is a strange analogy: Chiasso led the Swiss First Division with 11 points which were gained through only 8 goals scored. Just like Everton, who also led England's First Division early in September with 11 points thanks to only 8 goals! But Chiasso were finally exposed at the end of the month, when they crashed to Grasshoppers in Zürich by 0—7!

Biggest surprise sprung by the international team selectors was their omission from the squad to play Denmark of Chapuisat (who is currently playing in France), plus Blättler and Boffi. Thus the tried and experienced midfield axis of Odermatt, Kuhn and Blättler has been (temporarily?) dismantled.

BRIAN BIRCH, coach of Galatasaray, files this report on his team's exit from the European Cup at the hands of Bayern Munich

NOT A SHOCK BUT WE HOPED FOR A BETTER DRAW!

GALATASARAYS' exit from the European Cup at the hands of Bayern Munich was not unexpected and we will just have to hope we can win another championship in the hopes of meeting someone a little less endowed with talent. When a Turkish team has to contend with such players as Beckenbauer, Muller, Hoeness, Breitner and Swartzenbeck plus Maier in goal then it is time to call it a day. We did well to hold them to a draw in Istanbul and managed to score one goal, but in the return match, played at the Olympic stadium in Munich it was a slaughter. I did not expect anything else, but at the same time I couldn't help thinking "how grossly unfair this draw had been."

The Bayern team play the same system as the national team, which is understandable when they have six of them in the side. Man-to-man marking is still the priority in Germany but they, Bayern, use Beckenbauer and Swartzenbeck as attacking forces when they are in possession. It is very difficult to control these two unless one has the talented players to do so. Once the Bayern side are in possession of the ball Beckenbauer will immediately move into an attacking position, sometimes it is in mid-field, sometimes it will be the attacking full back position, but it will be in the hope of bringing him forward.

When you think it is only Beckenbauer you have to think of then his centre half, Swartzenbeck goes forward and Beckenbauer stays . . . It is terribly frustrating, for they do this so well.

Uncanny gift

Muller, of course, is always a menace, and when asked by one of the German reporters what I planned to do about Muller I asked him was it possible for my players to carry firearms, for this was the only way my defenders would have a chance of blunting this mans' uncanny gift for a chance. In mid-field Hoeness is undoubtedly one of the great discoveries of German football, and together with Roth and Zobel, the former named must soon come into the reckoning internationally, is quite a trio.

The final score of 6—0 will be something I will find difficult to forget, but when assessing the game objectively a day or so later it was nothing less than well deserved. They hit their first in the seventeenth minute through, you've guessed it, Muller after a great run by Beckenbauer.

In the 25th minute Hoeness ran onto a cross from Muller and hit it first time to make it 2—0 and Schneider made it three just before the interval. In the second half it was no different but they failed to really cash in on their many chances. But when it looked as though we might at least get out of Munich with a little moral the Portuguese referee awarded Bayern a penalty for a foul on Hoffman. This decision was a little harsh in my opinion as it was more than a little obvious that Hoffman had no chance of getting the ball so he took a dive.

Beckenbauer made no mistake from the spot to make it 4—0. Schwarzenbeck came through on one of his runs, passed to Muller who turned and went solo to make it 5—0. Six was set up for Roth by Muller and that was the end of it . . . thank heavens.

After the game I was asked by the German press "what were the chances of Bayern in the European Cup?" I had to reply that they had many talented players but would find it difficult to win it, as this was no game to go by. Against better class opposition they would not be given the space allowed in this game. If you can isolate Beckenbauer, harrass him, he is not half so effective, consequently the mid-field becomes a 3-versus-3 battle and not a 4-versus-3 situation.

At the back they like to play with only three defenders when in possession and their whole system falls down when this is put out of joint. Breitner likes to come forward into attacking positions joining up with Muller (who is the key to all attacking moves) but only if Beckenbauer and Schwarzenbeck are in full command of the situation. Put the pressure on these two key defenders and things begin to look a little brighter.

Inevitable slaughter

Unfortunately Turkish players are not equipped mentally or physically for this job and the inevitable slaughter is the result. One day I would like to be given the opportunity to go back to Munich with something approaching European class players and put my theories to the test, but until that day I will be following the progress of Bayern Munich closely, hoping naturally for a British team to defeat them.

My bet for the Cup? Ajax must be favourites followed by Celtic and Real Madrid, the latter named have discovered one or two useful players this season. Derby County will need a little luck if they are to get into the finals for they have little experience at this level, and almost all the sides that are or have been successful in European Cup finals have plenty of experience. Here's hoping for a British victory . . . Cheers, see you next month.

PETER JACKSON from Wales

James offers ray of hope

WALES go into the World Cup against England at Ninian Park this month (Nov. 15) with their wounded pride bruised still more by the early season failure of their two city clubs—Second Division Cardiff and Third Division Swansea.

Yet amid the thick clouds of gloom, one player has brought a shaft of light—Leighton James, the 19-year-old Burnley winger whose almost precocious skill offers Wales hope of some kind of salvation.

Already established in Burnley's progressive Second Division side, the teenager from the West Wales village of Gorseinon has convinced Dave Bowen that a place simply has to be kept open for him.

Not that the Welsh team manager needs any re-assuring but the opinion of Burnley's Jimmy Adamson illustrates just how good a player James has become in little more than 18 months of League football.

Exciting prospect

"My view is that if the boy was eligible to play for England, Sir Alf Ramsey would have him in his squad now," says Adamson "He has great confidence and great ability.

"He's got a lot of Welsh fire in his heart too. Joe Mercer has described him as one of the most exciting prospects he has seen."

Thrown in at the deep end for a sudden international baptism 12 months ago because Wales suffered from their almost inevitably chronic shortage of available players, James became an instant success.

Nerve-wracking

His appearance against Czechoslovakia in Prague made him the fourth youngest capped player in Welsh history—behind John Charles, Gary Speake and Graham Moore.

James, however, also learnt that international status poses its own frustration. Omitted from last season's British Championship for all but the last 18 minutes of a lost Welsh cause in Glasgow, he had every right to feel disappointed.

"I don't want to sit it out again like I did during the British Championship," he says "I say that not because I think I should be playing but just because it's more nerve-wracking to be left out.

"If I am one of the substitutes then, of course, I will have to watch the game. But if I'm not picked at all I won't watch it."

James can take it for granted that, barring injury, he will have his own close-up view of the match against England, one dare not lose if the road to Munich in 1974 is not to turn out to be the same dead-end as Mexico 1970, England 1966 and Chile 1962.

"Why can't we beat England?" asks James who was probably still in nappies when Wales last achieved such a victory back in 1955.

"It's eleven against eleven. The underdog has always a chance, however slight. I don't think of myself as a certainty for the match against England. You're never in the team until your name is on the sheet."

James has no regrets at leaving his native South Wales, a predictable sentiment in view of Burnley's high reputation for schooling above-average teenagers and the ailing state of the game in Wales.

The dawning of another World Cup preliminary series coincides with a much more professional approach to the job from the Welsh F.A. The attitude should have changed years ago but better late than never.

For the first time the Welsh have conducted squad training, a four-day seminar in the National Sports Centre at Cardiff when, as Bowen put it, the whole object of the exercise was to plan the beating of England.

Current form

By assembling 24 players under the one roof for four days team officials may at last have found a way of injecting the football dragons with some of the fire of their rugby brethren.

Six uncapped players among the party is ample proof of the new policy outlined by Welsh F.A. secretary Trevor Morris —that selectors are making their decisions on current form, not on reputation.

Of the newcomers, Bristol City's John Emanuel may be the one to make the final eleven. His impressive midfield performances in Second Division games this season make him a leading candidate to strengthen a department woefully weak in recent Welsh games.

If Emanuel does make it, then he will have completed an astonishing leap from amateur international football in only 18 months. A 25-year-old former housepainter from Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley, it is incredible to recall that two seasons ago Emanuel was playing in the Welsh League for Ferndale Athletic.

Major influence

Mel Sutton has done much more than become the first player to appear in Europe with two different Welsh clubs. And his experience over 14 Cup winners Cup ties for Cardiff has been a major influence in Wrexham's success in the same tournament.

Says the Third Division club's manager John Neal: "I relied a great deal on Mel for both matches of our first round tie against Zurich. He knows this type of football inside out.

"He knew exactly what we could get away with and what we couldn't. I just can't praise him highly enough."

Appropriately it was Sutton, with a late header, who brought Wrexham their own famous victory. Having drawn 1—1 in Switzerland, they came from behind before a crowd of 18,000 on their own ground for a 3—2 aggregate win.

Sutton has had an up-and-down career. Rejected by Aston Villa, Cardiff signed him for nothing and the player responded with hard-working service over four seasons.

Transferred to Wrexham for £15,000 during the summer, Sutton met with immediate success in the Third Division. Who knows, with perhaps one or two players Wrexham may not be far away when the promotion prizes are handed out at the end of the season.

ALEX GORDON from Scotland

'This season things have come to a head at Ibrox Park' RANGERS FACE ... PROBLEMS?

RANGERS are just one season off their centenary year . . . and unless they do something drastic their celebrations will never get off the ground! The proud Ibrox club have walked into yet another crisis with their eyes wide open and they are now suffering the consequences. General manager Willie Waddell assures the fans there is no crisis "just a few problems". Who is he trying to kid? Since the start of the season the team have struggled to strike any sort of blend or formation.

In their opening 17 games they LOST NINE! It is a lamentable record and the follow-follow boys have stopped following. It is time Rangers pulled their head out of the sand and accepted the harsh and sometimes brutal facts of soccer life. They have had a crisis at least once every season for the past six years. They have bought players who have been a success with their old clubs, switched their positions around and then sold them when they couldn't produce the goods.

Some players have arrived at Ibrox swearing their undying love for the club and leaving several months later totally disillusioned with the team they supported as a boy. This season things have come to a head . . . the volcano at Ibrox has erupted.

Requests

Three players—Colin Stein, Willie Johnston and Alfie Conn—who helped them to their European Cup Winners' Cup triumph over Moscow Dynamo in the Barcelona battle-field last term, were quick to ask for a transfer this season. They weren't happy playing in the team, they weren't happy with the tactics. Stein was sold to Coventry in a £140,000 deal plus former Ayr United winger Quinton Young. Johnston and Conn withdrew their requests after a talk with manager Jock Wallace.

But the danger signals are there. If Waddell doesn't see them he is the only one. Certainly the missing thousands of Rangers fans have better powers of observation. Rangers have been good for Scottish football. They have done us proud in Europe on countless occasions and they have helped carry the tartan banner against all opposition. They have a past filled with many glittering memories . . . they have a Hall of Fame packed with players of all talents.

However, now is the time for them to awaken to soccer life in the non-stop seventies. Tactics, formations etc are changing all the time and the Ibrox club are being left behind. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT!

I doubt if two Second Division teams have ever come to Ibrox and walloped Rangers in the one season, but it happened this year. St. Mirren crushed them and their pride with a 4—1 win in the League Cup qualifying section and little part-timers Stenhousemuir also defeated the Ibrox men 2—1 in a League Cup match. And don't forget that last season's two relegated clubs had success against Rangers. Dunfermline, in fact, beat them 4—3 at Ibrox and Clyde held them to a 1—1 draw at Shawfield.

Surely, after this Mr. Waddell MUST be aware of what is happening. The team went from mediocre to dreadful at one stage. They lost to Kilmarnock, who hadn't previously won a League match! They drew 1—1 against Morton at Ibrox. The Greenock club were bottom of the League at that point! They drew 1—1 against St. Johnstone at Ibrox. The Muirton club were bottom of the table at that point!

Rangers, as so often in the past, have dived head-long into the transfer market to try and buy their way out of trouble. They shocked everyone with a £10,000 bid that took Joe Mason from Morton to Ibrox. Mason, 31, was bought because he "could knock the ball about in midfield." The Ibrox fans will want a bit more than that, Mr. Waddell. Three days later Rangers signed Tom Forsyth from Motherwell for £40,000. Forsyth, an international, is the sort of player who can calm the team and control the moves and direction of the play.

Fickle fans

However, the £100,000 gap left by Colin Stein has yet to be properly filled. Stein took a lot of stick while he was at Ibrox and was eventually extremely pleased to be getting away from it all. He is not the only top scorer at Rangers who has suffered in the same way. George McLean, Jim Forrest, Ralph Brand, Alex Ferguson and Max Murray are just a few who have waved a thankful farewell to Ibrox in the past after doing everything in their power to put Rangers back on top again. They scored the goals . . . but couldn't keep the fickle fans happy.

Certainly Rangers may make the critics eat their words and make a splendid recovery, but at the moment they appear to be behind Celtic, Aberdeen, Hibs and possibly Dundee, hossed by their former manager Davie White, when it comes to naming the top Scottish clubs this season.

Colin Stein—transferred to Coventry City.

Rangers have been living in the past. They are now not every young boy's favourite team. Television has opened up a new world to the youngsters. They can see the likes of Leeds United, Liverpool, Brazil, Derby, Manchester United, Inter Milan, Ajax and all the other big teams. They can compare them with what they see at Ibrox.

If Rangers are to get out of this rut they must settle down and stop changing the team just for the sake of changing it. Their first team pool of players isn't as strong as it could be and will be strengthened in time. The warnings are loud and clear . . . three trophies since 1966 is NOT enough for the Rangers fans, who have been spoiled by success in the early sixties.

Will the centenary year go off with a champagne sparkle? Or will it be as flat as last week's beer? The answer lies in the hands of everyone at Ibrox.

LEAGUE TABLES

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zaria Voroshil	24	14	6	4	43	21	34
CSKA Moscow	26	14	3	9	33	28	31
Dynamo Tbilisi	24	10	9	5	33	24	29
Dynamo Minsk	25	9	10	6	26	21	28
Dnepr	25	9	10	6	32	32	28
Ararat Erevan	24	10	7	7	34	25	27
Dynamo Moscow	24	11	3	10	33	28	25
Torpedo Moscow	24	9	7	8	26	29	25
Zenith Leningrad	26	7	11	8	27	28	25
Dynamo Kiev	22	8	8	6	34	27	24
SKA Rostov	25	7	9	9	26	30	23
Kairat Alma Ata	25	5	12	8	19	23	22
Spartak Moscow	23	8	5	10	26	24	21
Karpaty Lvov *	25	7	6	12	20	35	20
Neftchi Baku	25	5	6	14	23	45	16
Lokomotiv Moscow	25	3	8	14	23	40	14

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	9	7	1	1	21	5	15
Ajax	9	7	0	2	30	7	14
FC Den Haag	9	5	3	1	17	9	13
Twente	9	6	1	2	12	8	13
Sparta	9	5	1	3	25	8	11
MVV	9	4	2	3	13	9	10
Amsterdam	9	4	1	4	17	15	9
PSV Eindhoven	9	4	1	4	12	11	9
Utrecht	9	3	3	2	11	16	9
NEC	9	3	2	4	8	11	8
Go Ahead	9	3	2	4	9	13	8
Haarlem	9	3	2	4	7	11	8
Telstar	9	3	1	5	10	17	7
Den Bosch	9	2	3	4	6	13	7
NAC	9	2	2	5	6	16	6
AZ 67	9	2	2	5	9	20	6
Groningen	9	0	5	4	5	16	5
Excelsior	9	1	2	6	3	16	4

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	5	5	0	0	26	2	10
Sporting Lisbon	5	4	0	1	11	5	8
Belenenses	5	3	2	0	8	4	8
Setubal	5	3	0	2	14	6	6
Guimaraes	5	3	0	2	10	5	6
Uniao Tomar	5	3	0	2	5	7	6
Beira-Mar	5	2	1	2	5	13	5
Montijo	5	2	0	3	5	6	4
Porto	5	1	2	2	3	5	4
CUF	5	2	0	3	7	10	4
Boavista	5	2	0	3	7	11	4
Leixoes	5	2	0	3	6	11	4
Farense	5	1	1	3	5	10	3
Barreirense	5	1	1	3	6	12	3
Uniao Coimbra	5	1	1	3	2	8	3
Atletico	5	0	2	3	3	8	2

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	7	5	1	1	16	8	11
Spartak Pleven	7	4	1	2	18	10	9
CSKA Sofia SF	7	3	3	1	14	10	9
Pernik	7	3	3	1	8	9	9
Akademik	7	3	2	2	12	9	8
Beroe Stara Zagora	7	4	0	3	14	6	8
Levski Spartak	7	3	2	2	14	7	8
Slavia	7	3	2	2	10	8	8
Cernomore	7	3	2	2	15	14	8
Etar	7	3	2	2	12	12	8
Lokov Jambol	7	2	2	3	9	9	6
Trakia	7	3	0	4	9	10	6
Dunav	7	1	4	2	7	14	6
Lokomotiv Sofia	7	2	2	3	7	17	6
Volov	7	2	0	5	7	11	4
Cernomorez	7	2	0	5	7	12	4
Botev	7	1	2	4	9	17	4
ESK Spartak	7	1	2	4	7	17	4

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	6	5	1	0	19	3	11
Fortuna Dusseldorf	6	4	1	1	17	11	9
Kickers Offenbach	6	4	1	1	13	11	9
VfL Bochum	6	4	0	2	10	8	8
1FC Cologne	6	3	2	1	10	8	8
VfB Stuttgart	6	4	0	2	11	12	8
Eintracht Frankfurt	6	3	1	2	14	10	7
MSV Duisburg	6	2	2	2	9	8	6
Schalke 04	6	3	0	3	12	12	6
Moenchengladbach	6	3	0	3	13	14	6
Hannover 96	6	3	0	3	11	13	6
Wuppertaler	6	2	1	3	9	8	5
Kaiserslautern	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
Werder Bremen	6	1	2	3	3	5	4
Braunschweig	6	2	0	4	5	9	4
Hertha Berlin	6	1	1	4	9	16	3
Oberhausen	6	1	0	5	4	14	2
Hamburger SV	6	0	1	5	6	12	1

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velle	18	13	1	4	58	26	27
B 1901 Nykobing	18	11	0	7	44	25	22
B 1903 Copenhagen	18	9	5	4	33	25	22
Naestved	18	7	7	4	34	34	21
Randers Freja	18	8	3	7	30	29	19
Frem	17	7	2	8	24	33	16
Hvidovre	18	7	2	9	23	27	16
Koge	18	5	6	7	24	32	16
Brondby	18	6	4	8	26	38	16
KB Copenhagen	18	5	5	8	25	35	15
Aarhus	17	5	3	9	21	36	13
B 1909 Odense	18	4	3	11	25	37	11

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Dresden	4	4	0	0	6	2	8
Sachsenring	4	3	1	0	7	1	7
Carl Zeiss Jena	4	3	1	0	8	4	7
Magdeburg	4	3	0	1	8	3	6
Dynamo Berlin	4	1	2	1	9	7	4
Chemie Halle	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Vorwaerts Frankfurt	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
Chemie Leipzig	4	0	3	1	3	4	3
Union Berlin	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
Wismut Aue	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Karl-Marx-Stadt	4	1	1	2	3	8	3
Hansa Rostock	4	0	2	2	7	9	2
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	4	1	0	3	3	6	2
Lokomotiv Leipzig	4	0	1	3	3	9	1

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star Belgrade	9	7	1	1	20	4	15
Zeljeznicar	9	7	0	2	17	8	14
Radnicki	9	6	1	2	12	7	13
Velez	9	4	4	1	11	6	12
OFK Belgrade	9	4	3	2	12	7	11
Partizan	9	5	1	3	12	12	11
Celik	9	4	2	3	11	13	10
Borac	9	4	1	4	9	6	9
Vojvodina	9	4	1	4	14	12	9
Sarajevo	9	4	1	4	13	12	9
Sloboda	9	3	3	3	9	9	9
Hajduk Split	9	3	1	5	13	12	7
Olimpija	9	2	2	5	11	12	6
Vardar	9	2	2	5	8	13	6
Spartak	9	2	2	5	8	15	6
Sutjeska	9	2	2	5	7	15	6
Bor	9	2	1	6	7	18	5
Dinamo	9	1	2	6	3	13	4

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honved	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Ferencvaros	4	3	0	1	11	6	6
Vasas	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
MTK	4	2	2	0	7	3	6
Csepel	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Tatabanya	4	1	3	0	4	3	5
Videoton	4	2	0	2	8	6	4
Ujpest Dozsa	4	2	0	2	7	5	4
Raba ETO	4	2	0	2	7	8	4
Komlo	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Voros	4	0	3	1	1	2	3
Szeged	4	1	1	2	4	10	3
Zalaegerszeg	4	1	0	3	4	4	2
Diosgyor	4	0	2	2	1	4	2
Salgotarjan	4	1	0	3	7	11	2
Egyetertes	4	0	1	3	5	15	1

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	4	3	0	1	6	1	6
Traktori	4	3	0	1	6	2	6
Vlazrija	3	2	1	0	9	2	5
Besa	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Flamurtari	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
Labinoti	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Skenderbeu	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Shkendija	4	1	1	2	6	6	3
Besleidhja	4	0	3	1	0	1	3
Luftetari	4	1	1	2	2	5	3
Partizani	4	0	3	1	1	3	3
Nendori	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Lokomotiva	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Agolonija	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolespor	3	3	0	0	5	2	6
Fenerbahce	3	2	1	0	7	2	5
Galatasaray	3	2	1	0	5	0	5
Bursaspor	3	1	2	0	1	0	4
Samsun	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Vefa	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
Iskenbir	3	1	1	1	1	1	3
Besiktas	3	1	1	1	1	1	3
Goztepe	3	1	1	1	3	4	3
Ankaragucu	3	1	1	1	2	4	3
Altay	3	1	0	2	4	4	2
Sakaraspor	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Mersin	3	1	0	2	1	3	2
PTT	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Giresun	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Adanaspor	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nice	10	8	1	1	29	11	17
Angers	10	6	1	3	19	13	13
Nimes	10	5	3	2	13	8	13
Lyon	10	5	3	2	15	14	13
Marseille	10	5	2	3	16	8	12
St. Etienne	10	4	4	2	15	9	12
Rennes	10	6	0	4	15	12	12
Metz	10	4	4	2	18	17	12
Nantes	10	4	4	2	11	10	12
Nancy	10	4	2	4	12	13	10
Sochaux	10	4	2	4	17	19	10
Strasbourg	10	3	4	3	13	17	10
Bastia	10	3	3	4	14	12	9
Paris	10	3	2	5	12	16	8
Bordeaux	10	1	5	4	14	18	7
Valenciennes	10	2	3	5	6	13	7
Reims	10	2	2	6	9	17	6
Red Star Paris	10	1	4	5	7	13	6
Ajaccio	10	2	2	6	11	20	6
Sedan	10	2	1	7	12	22	5

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tatran Presov	10	9	1	0	19	3	19
Spartak Trnava	10	5	4	1	18	9	14
ZVL Zilina	10	6	1	3	19	10	13
Sp. Hr. Kralove	10	5	2	3	11	18	12
VSS Kosice	10	5	1	4	17	10	11
AC Nitra	10	5	1	4	15	14	11
Dukla Prague	10	3	4	3	10	9	10
Slovan Bratislava	10	3	4	3	8	10	10
Lok. Kosice	10	4	1	5	12	15	9
Zbrojovka Brno	10	2	4	4	15	17	8
TZ Trinec	10	2	4	4	5	10	8
Sparta Prague	9	3	1	5	11	11	7
Union Teplice	10	2	3	5	10	12	7
Banik Ostrava	10	3	1	6	9	16	7
Skoda Plzen	9	2	2	5	9	13	6
Slavia Prague	10	1	4	5	6	15	6

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	6	5	1	0	11	3	11
Zaragoza	6	3	3	0	11	1	9
Espanol	6	2	4	0	7	2	8
Athletic Bilbao	6	3	2	1	8	3	8
Valencia	6	2	3	1	8	3	7
Malaga	6	2	3	1	5	4	7
Real Madrid	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Atletico Madrid	6	3	1	2	5	5	7
Las Palmas	6	3	1	2	6	7	7
Real Sociedad	6	2	2	2	3	5	6
Celta Vigo	6	1	3	2	4	4	5
Gijon	6	2	1	3	4	4	5
Coruna	6	1	3	2	4	10	5
Granada	6	0	4	2	2	6	4
Burgos	6	1	2	3	4	9	4
Oviedo	6	1	1	4	5	10	3
Castellon	6	1	1	4	4	10	3
Real Betis	6	0	2	4	2	8	2

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LKS Lodz	9	4	3	2	10	9	11
Gwardia	8	3	4	1	10	4	10
Stal Mielec	8	3	4	1	11	8	10
RGW Rybnik	9	4	2	3	19	9	10
Ruch	7	3	3	1	9	4	9
Lech	8	3	3	2	6	8	9
Zaglebie Sos.	7	3	2	2	9	5	8
Wisla	7	4	0	3	11	9	8
Zaglebie Wal.	9	3	1	5	12	14	7
Polonia	9	2	3	4	5	13	7
Pogon	7	2	2	3	10	10	6
Gornik	6	2	1	3	3	5	5
Legia	7	1	3	3	4	4	5
Odra	9	1	3	5	6	14	5

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshoppers	**10**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**25**	**12**	**15**
Servette	10	6	1	3	18	9	13
Basel	10	5	3	2	20	15	13
Winterthur	10	4	4	2	19	11	12
Zurich	10	5	2	3	13	11	12
Chiasso	10	5	2	3	8	12	12
Chaux-de-Fonds	10	3	5	2	13	13	11
Sion	10	4	2	4	11	15	10
Lugano	10	3	4	3	9	13	10
Young Boys	10	4	1	5	12	10	9
Lausanne	10	3	3	4	16	15	9
Grenchen	10	2	2	6	7	15	6
Fribourg	10	1	3	6	9	16	5
St. Gallen	10	1	1	8	8	21	3

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Viking	**21**	**16**	**1**	**4**	**41**	**14**	**33**
Fredrikstad	21	15	2	4	30	16	32
Strommgodset	21	10	7	4	40	26	27
Rosenborg	21	6	9	6	21	18	21
Lyn, Oslo	21	7	6	8	29	22	20
Skeid	21	7	5	9	25	26	19
Hamarkam	21	6	7	8	14	18	19
Mjoendalen	21	8	3	10	28	36	19
Brann	21	6	6	9	20	23	18
Sarpsborg	21	6	6	9	21	29	18
Hodd	21	4	6	11	18	38	14
Mjoelner	21	3	6	12	10	31	12

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Admira Wacker	**8**	**6**	**2**	**0**	**9**	**0**	**14**
Rapid Vienna	8	5	3	0	16	6	13
Sw. Innsbruck	8	4	3	1	14	7	11
Linzer ASK	8	4	2	2	16	6	10
VOeEST Linz	8	4	2	2	14	11	10
FK Austria	8	4	1	3	13	8	9
Austria Klagenfurt	8	4	1	3	8	9	9
Alpine Donawitz	8	2	4	2	7	9	8
Grazer AK	8	2	3	3	11	9	7
Austria Salzburg	8	3	1	4	8	7	7
Eisenstadt	8	3	1	4	9	8	7
Wiener SK	8	2	3	3	8	15	7
Vienna	8	2	2	4	9	16	6
Sturm Graz	8	2	1	5	7	14	5
Vorwerk Bregenz	8	1	1	6	5	15	3
Wiener Neustadt	8	0	2	6	4	18	2

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bruges	**5**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**8**	**4**	**8**
Standard Liege	5	3	1	1	5	2	7
Lierse SK	5	3	1	1	5	3	7
Anderlecht	5	3	1	1	7	5	7
CS Bruges	5	2	2	1	4	3	6
Malines	5	2	2	1	5	4	6
Beerschen	5	1	3	1	3	3	5
Crossing	5	1	3	1	3	3	5
Racing White	5	1	3	1	2	2	5
Beringen	5	1	3	1	6	7	5
Beerschot	5	2	0	3	8	8	4
Antwerp	5	2	0	3	3	4	4
FC Liege	5	1	2	2	4	5	4
St. Trond	5	1	1	3	2	4	3
Union St. Gilloise	5	0	3	2	2	4	3
Diest	5	0	1	4	6	12	1

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steagu Rosu	**6**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**9**	**1**	**8**
SC Bacau	6	4	0	2	10	5	8
CFR Cluj	6	4	0	2	7	3	8
Jiul	6	3	2	1	10	8	8
Petrolul Ploesti	6	3	2	1	4	4	8
Steaua	6	3	1	2	12	5	7
Dinamo	6	3	1	2	11	9	7
Univ. Craiova	6	3	1	2	13	12	7
Tarul	6	3	1	2	5	8	7
Arges	6	2	2	2	12	7	6
UT Arad	6	2	1	3	8	10	5
Univ. Cluj	6	2	1	3	6	15	5
AS Armata	6	2	0	4	13	15	4
Sp. Studentesc	6	1	1	4	8	15	3
CSM Resita	6	1	1	4	5	12	3
Rapid	6	0	2	4	2	6	2

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK Salonika	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**8**	**1**	**12**
Panathinaikos	4	3	1	0	12	5	11
Panachaiki	4	3	1	0	7	2	11
Olympiakos Piraeus	4	3	0	1	11	1	10
Panionios	4	2	2	0	7	3	10
AEK Athens	4	2	2	0	3	1	10
Ethnikos	4	2	1	1	6	4	9
Olympiakos Volos	4	2	1	1	5	6	9
Aris	4	1	2	1	2	2	8
Atromitos	4	1	2	1	2	3	8
Kavala	4	1	1	2	5	5	7
Aigaleo	4	1	1	2	3	7	7
Iraklis	4	0	2	2	3	6	6
Kalamata	4	0	2	2	2	5	6
Panserraikos	4	0	2	2	3	7	6
Omonia	4	0	1	3	6	11	5
Foxtir	4	0	1	3	1	8	5
Trikala	4	0	0	4	0	9	4

Dirceu Lopes of Belo Cruzeiro and Brazil, considered to be one of Brazil's best ever players.

Liverpool's Keegan tackles Chelsea's Hollins.

Classified results ... European details ... league tables ... Classifie

AUGUST 13

Peru 3 (Fernandez 2, Munante)
Mexico 2 (Borja, Pulido)

Peru: Barela; Navarro, Cueliar, Velasquez, Salinas (Rinco), Fernandez, Mayorga, Baylon, Sotil (Rojas), Cubillas, Munante.
Mexico: Puente; Bermudez, Guzman, Hernandez, Chavarry, (Sanchez), De La Torre, Pulido, Victorino (Mucino), Bustos, Borja, Damian (Medina).

WORLD CUP
AUGUST 20

Canada 3 (Parsons, Twamley, Johnson)
USA 2 (Roy, Getzinger)

Canada: Howard; Sam Lenarduzzi, Grant, Lecce, Twamley, Douglas (Mackay), Ellett, Young (Robinson), Johnson, Parsons, Schiraldi.
USA: Banach (Winter); Hamlyn, Walmer Mata (Hausmann), Getzinger, Reming, McBride, Kral, Barto, Moore, Roy, Geimer.

AUGUST 24

Canada 0
Mexico 1 (Borbolla)

Canada: Howard; Sam Lenarduzzi, Grant, Ellett, Twamley, Douglas (Mackay), Lecce, Young (Robinson), Johnson, Parsons, Schiraldi.
Mexico: Calderon; Bermudez, Guzman, Hernandez, Sanchez, Victorino, Pulido, Bustos, De La Torre, Borja, Borbolla.

AUGUST 29

USA 2 (Roy, Barto)
Canada 2 (Mackay, Douglas)

USA:
Canada: Howard; Sam Lenarduzzi (Horrocks), Grant, Ellett, Twamley, Mackay, Lecce, Young, Johnson, Parsons, Schiraldi (Douglas).

SEPTEMBER 6

Mexico 2 (Victorino, Bustos)
Canada 1 (Robinson)

Mexico: Calderon; Bermudez, Guzman, Hernandez, Sanchez, De La Torre, Pulido, Victorino (Medina), Bustos, Borja, Borbolla.
Canada: Howard; Sam Lenarduzzi, Grant, Ellett, Twamley, Mackay, Young, (Lecce), Robinson (Horrocks), Johnson, Parsons, Douglas.

(INTERNATIONAL)

Guatemala 2 (Monterroso, Carias)
Canada 2 (Young, Sciraldi)

Guatemala: Santander; Lopez Olivs, Melgar, Lijon, Giron, Monterros, Hartarta, Herrera, Martinez, Anderson, Carias.
Canada: Chursky; Horrocks, Grant, Ellett, Twamley, Simeich (Robinson), Lecce, Young (Douglas), Johnson, Parsons, Sciraldi.

OCTOBER 3

Europe (0) 0
South America (1) 2 (Cubillas, Maneiro)

Europe: Viktor (Czechoslovakia); Hilario (Portugal), Salvadore (Italy), Schnellinger (West Germany), Facchetti (Italy), Hasil (Holland), Van Hanegem (Holland), Haller (West Germany), Cruyff (Holland), Lubanski (Poland), Dzaic (Yugoslavia).
South America: Santoro (Argentina); Wolff (Argentina), Chumpitaz (Peru), Bargas (Argentina), Pavoni (Argentina), Brindisi (Argentina), Mancero Castillo (Uruguay), Cubillas (Peru), Ayala (Argentina), Sotil (Peru), Alonso (Argentina). Sub: Maneiro (Uruguay).

EUROPEAN CUP
First round

Real Madrid (2) 3 (Santillana 2, Grande)
Keflavik (0) 0
Keflavik (0) 0
Real Madrid (0) 1 (Verdugo)
Anderlecht (1) 4 (Ejderstedt, Rensenbrink 2, Van Himst)
Vejle BK (0) 2 (Johanssen 2)
Vejle BK (0) 0
Anderlecht (0) 3 (Wolters, Rensenbrink 2)
Ujpest Dozsa (0) 2 (Horvath, Zambo)
Basle (0) 0
Basle (1) 3 (Hasler, Balmer 2)
Ujpest Dozsa (0) 2 (Bene 2)
Celtic (1) 2 (Macari, Deans)
Rosenberg Trondheim (1) 1 (Wirkola)
Rosenberg Trondheim (1) 1 (Christiansen)
Celtic (0) 3 (Macari, Hood, Dalglish)
Galatasaray (0) 1 (Bulent)
Bayern Munich (0) 1 (Müller)
Bayern Munich (3) 6 (Müller 2, Hoeness, Schneider, Roth, Beckenbauer pen.)
Galatasaray (0) 0
Olympic Marseille (0) 1 (Salvadore o.g.)
Juventus (0) 0
Juventus (3) 3 (Bettega 2, Haller)
Olympic Marseille (0) 0
Malmoe (1) 1 (Bo Larsson)
Benfica (0) 0
Benfica (3) 4 (Eusebio 2, 1 pen., Jordao, Simoes)
Malmoe (0) 1 (Tapper pen.)
SW Innsbruck (0) 0
Dinamo Kiev (0) 1 (Kolotov)
Dinamo Kiev (1) 2 (Puzach, Damin)
SW Innsbruck (0) 0
CSKA (1) 2 (Kolev pen., Yankov)
Panathinaikos (0) 1 (Veron)
Panathinaikos (2) 2 (Veron, Domelo)
CSKA (0) 1 (Trankov)
(CSKA qualified on penalty kicks)
Sliema Wanderers (0)
Gornik (3) 5 (Lubanski 3, Banas, Wilczek)
Gornik (2) 5 (Szoltysik, Lubanski, Oslizlo, Szarmach 2)
Sliema Wanderers (0) 0
FC Magdeburg (4) 6 (Mewes, Pommerenke, Seguin, Sparwasser 2)
Turun Turku (0) 0
Turun Turku (0) 1 (Toivola)
FC Magdeburg (0) 3 (Sparwasser 2, Pommerenke)
Aris Bonneweg (0) 0
Arges Pitesti (0) 2
Arges Pitesti (3) 4 (Dobrin 2, Radu 2)
Aris Bonneweg (0) 0
Derby (1) 2 (McFarland, Gemmill)
Zeljeznicar (0) 0
Zeljeznicar (0) 1 (Spreco)
Derby (2) 2 (Hinton, O'Hare)
Waterford (2) 2 (Hale 2)
Omonia Nikosia (0) 1 (Rotides)
Omonia Nikosia (1) 2 (Chelebis 2)
Waterford (0) 0

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP
First round

Bastia (0) 0
Atletico Madrid (0) 0
Atletico Madrid (1) 2 (Salcedo, Luis)
Bastia (1) 1 (Felix)
Red Boys (0) 1 (Klein)
AC Milan (1) 4 (Prati 2, Golin, Chiarugi)
AC Milan (2) 3 (Chiarugi 2, Benetti)
Red Boys (0) 0
Floriana (1) 1 (L. Arpa)
Ferencvaros (0) 0
Ferencvaros (3) 6 (A. Kue 2, Branikovits 2, Szoke, Mucha)
Floriana (0) 0
Schalke 04 (1) 2 (Russmann, Fischer)
Slavia Sofia (0) 1 (Georgiev)
Slavia Sofia (0) 1 (Michailov)
Schalke 04 (2) 3 (Braun, Scheer, Lutkebohmert)
Standard Liege (0) 1 (Dewalque)
Sparta Prague (0) 0
Sparta Prague 4 (Kara 3, Urban)
Standard Liege 2 (Takac, Henrotay)
Spartak Moscow (0) 1 (Bulgakov)
FC Den Haag (0) 0
FC Den Haag (0) 0
Spartak Moscow (0) 0
KR Reykjavik (0) 0
Legia Warsaw (0) 2
Legia Warsaw (3) 9 (Bialas 2, Pieszko 3, Szachurski, Deyna 2, Cmikiewicz)
KR Reykjavik (0) 0
Ankaragucu (0) 1 (Zafer pen.)
Leeds United (1) 1 (Jordan)
Leeds United (0) 1 (Jones)
Ankaragucu (0) 0
Hajduk Split (1) 1 (Nadoveza)
Fredrikstad (0) 0
Fredrikstad (0) 0
Hajduk Split (1) 1 (Nadovic)
Rapid Vienna (0) 0
PAOK Salonika (0) 0
PAOK Salonika (1) 2 (Rapidgallos, Aslanides)
Rapid Vienna (2) 2 (Krakl, Sarafis)
FC Zurich (0) 1 (Kunzli)
Wrexham (0) 1 (Kinsey)
Wrexham (0) 2 (Ashcroft, Sutton)
FC Zurich (0) 1 (Martinelli)
Sporting Lisbon (0) 2 (Fraguito, Manaca)
Hibernian (0) 1 (Duncan)
Hibernian (3) 6 (O'Rourke 3, Gordon 2, Manaca o.g.)
Sporting Lisbon (1) 1 (Fraguito)
Rapid Bucharest (1) 3 (Stelian 2, Nasturescu)
Lanskrona (0) 0
Landskrona (1) 1 (Lindgren)
Rapid Bucharest (0) 0
Pezoporikos Larnaca (0) 1 (Duffy)
Cork Hibs (1) 2 (Lawson pen., Sheehan)
Cork Hibs (2) 4 (Wallace, Lawson 2, Dennehy)
Pezoporikos Larnaca (0) 1 (Miller)
Fremad Amager (0) 1
FC Besa (1) 1
FC Besa (0) 0
Fremad Amager (0) 0
Carl Zeiss Jena (1) 6 (Vogel 3, Stein 3)
MP Mikkeli (1) 1 (Kaariainen)
MP Mikkeli (2) 3 (Kangaskorpi, Vanhanen, Toivolo)
Carl Zeiss Jena (1) 2 (Vogel, Schneitler)

UEFA CUP
First round

Aberdeen (0) 2 (Harper, Jarvie)
Borussia Monchengladbach (2) 3 (Kulik, Netzer, Jensen)
Borussia Monchengladbach (2) 6 (Rupp, Heynckes 3, 1 pen, Vogts, Danner pen.)
Aberdeen (3) 3 (Jarvie, Willoughby, Murray)
Atvidaberg (3) 3 (Svensson 2, Wallinder)
Bruges (2) 5 (Piot 2, Lambert 2, Dufresne)
Bruges (1) 1 (Geels)
Atvidaberg (1) 2 (Anderson, Svensson)
Lyn Oslo (2) 3 (Austnes, Christophersen 2)
Tottenham (4) 6 (Peters, Pratt, Gilzean 2, Chivers 2)
Tottenham (3) 6 (Chivers 3, Coates 2, Pearce)
Lyn Oslo (0) 0
Hvidovre W.O.
IFK Helsinki Ser.
IFK Helsinki
Hvidovre

Group two

Manchester City (1) 2 (Mellor, Marsh)
Valencia (1) 2 (Valdez, Adorno)

results ... European details ... league tables ... Classified results ..

Valencia (0) 2 (Valdez, Quino)
Manchester City (0) 1 (Marsh)
FC Cologne (1) 2 (Flohe 2)
Bohemians (0) 1 (Daly)
Bohemians (0) 0
FC Cologne (0) 3 (Flohe, Kapellmann, Lauscher)
Honved (1) 1 (Kozma)
Partick Thistle (0) 0
Partick Thistle (0) 0
Honved (1) 3 (Kiss, Kozma 2)
Vikinger Stavanger (1) 1
IBV Westman (0) 1
IBV Westman (0) 0
Vikinger Stavanger (0) 0

Group three

Feyenoord (4) 9 (Jansen 2, Turci o.g., Ressel, Kristensen, Hasil, Van Hanegem, Ladinsky, De Jong)
US Ruemlingen (0) 0
US Ruemlingen (0) 0
Feyenoord (6) 12 (Ladinsky 3, Schieder, De Jonk 3, Hasil 2, Van Hanegem, Schoenmaker 2)
Liverpool (1) 2 (Keegan, Hughes)
Eintracht Frankfurt (0) 0
Eintracht Frankfurt (0) 0
Liverpool (0) 0
Olympique Nimes (1) 1 (Dell'oeste)
Grasshoppers Zurich (1) 2 (Muller, Winiger)
Grasshoppers Zurich (2) 2 (Mueller, Citherlet)
Olympique Nimes (0) 1 (Adams)
Vitoria Setubal (2) 6 (Duda, Munites, Jacinto Joao 2, Arcanjo, Guimaraes)
Zaglebie Sosnowiec (0) 1 (Ambeozi)
Zaglebie Sosnowiec
Vitoria Setubal

Group four

Stoke City (0) 3 (Conroy, Hurst, Ritchie)
FC Kaiserslautern (0) 1 (Hosic)
FC Kaiserslautern (2) 4 (Huber, Friedrich, Bitz, Hosic)
Stoke City (0) 0
Racing White (0) 0
Barreirense (0) 1 (Vandenborght o.g.)
Barreirense (0) 2 (Eduardo 2)
Racing White (0) 0
Torino (2) 2 (Toschi 2)
Las Palmas (0) 0
Las Palmas (2) 4 (Soto 2, German 2)
Torino (0) 0
Sochaux (1) 1 (Lechantre)
Frem Copenhagen (1) 3 (Mortensen, Ahlberg, Morch)
Frem Copenhagen (1) 2 (Laurits, Moerch)
Sochaux (0) 1 (Perren)

Group five

Olimpiakos Piraus (1) 2 (Yootoas, Triantafyllos)
Cagliari (0) 1 (Domenghini)
Cagliari (0) 0
Olimpiakos Piraus (1) 1 (Niccolai o.g.)
Angers (0) 1 (Lemee pen.)
Dynamo Berlin (0) 1 (Johansen)
Dynamo Berlin (1) 2 (Schulenberg, Schuetze)
Angers (0) 1 (Lassalette)
FC Porto (0) 3 (Flavio, Abel 2)
Barcelona (1) 1 (Barrios)
Barcelona (0) 0
FC Porto (1) 1 (Abel)
Universitatea Cluj (0) 4 (Soob, Cretu, Muresan, Uifaleanu)
Levski Spartak (0) 1 (Haralambijev)
Levski Spartak (2) 5 (Tsvetkov, Zhechev, Vesselinov 2, Mitkov pen.)
Universitatea (0) 1 (Muntyan)

Group six

Red Star Belgrade (2) 5 (Karasi, Lazarevic 3, Jankovic)
Lausanne (0) 1 (Grahn)
Lausanne (2) 3
Red Star Belgrade (1) 2
Inter Milan (5) 6 (Boninsegna 4, 1 pen., Bedin, Bertini)
FC Valetta (1) 1 (Borg)
FC Valetta (0) 0
Inter Milan (1) 1 (Massa)
Beroe Stara-Zagora (4) 7 (Petkov 5, Belchev, Janchovski)
FK Austria (0) 0
FK Austria (1) 1 (Gallautz)
Beroe Stara-Zagora (2) 3 (Petkov 2, Beldnev)
UT Arad (1) 1 (Brosovski)
IFK Norrkoeping (0) 2 (Kindivall, Wandt)
IFK Norrkoeping (2) 2 (Kindvall 2)
UT Arad (0) 0

Group seven

Epa Larnaca (0) 0
Ararat Erewan (0) 1
Ararat Erewan (0) 1 (Istojan)
Epa Larnaca (0) 0
AEK Athens (2) 3 (Nicolaou, Vincente, Nicolaidis pen.)
Salgotarjan (0) 1 (Jeck pen.)
Salgotarjan (0) 1 (Basti)
AEK Athens (0) 1 (Nicolau)
Eskisehirspor (0) 1 (Vahap)
Fiorentina (1) 2 (Sormani, Clerici)
Fiorentina (2) 3 (Clerici, 2, 1 pen., Saltutti)
Eskisehirspor (0) 0
Dukla Prague (0) 2 (Herda, Bendl)
OFK Belgrade (1) 2 (Petkovic, Turudija)
OFK Belgrade (2) 3 (Zec, Petkovic, Santrac)
Dukla Prague (0) 1 (Slany)

Group eight

Slovan Bratislava (2) 6 (Capkovic 5, Pekarik)
Vojvodina (0) 0
Vojvodina (0) 1 (Terazic)
Slovan Bratislava (2) 2 (Jokl, Moder)
Dinamo Tiflis (2) 3
Twente Enschede (1) 2
Twente Enschede (2) 2 (Notten, Jeuring)
Dinamo Tiflis (0) 0
Ruch Chorzow (1) 3 (Maszczyk, Kapicera, Ben)
Fenerbahce (0) 0
Fenerbahce (0) 1 (Cevher)
Ruch Chorzow (0) 0
Dinamo Dresden (2) 2
Voest Linz (0) 0
Voest Linz (0) 2 (Stering, Missfeld)
Dinamo Dresden (2) 2 (Richter, Lichtenberger)

● *Continued from page 6*

own half, but they couldn't do it going forward . . . which is the nub of what it's all about.

On the other side of the coin there was so much wrong that it's difficult to know where to start. Goalkeeper Maric came with a big reputation, but threw it away at Wembley. Against high crosses which are bread and butter to good, even adequate, goalkeepers he was glad to get up and fist away. This must have done a great deal to unsettle his defensive colleagues. Then in the second half he made a glaring misjudgement when he came out to a long ball and was beaten to it.

Some 25 yards from goal he then tried to get back on his line but was much too late to prevent Royle scoring for England. Once committed he would have been better off trying to give away a corner or throw in or at least getting up tight on his opponent to prevent him crossing the ball. But the initial mistake was the costly one.

Right back Krivokuca produced one or two useful things from right back but like his other defensive colleagues he had the knack of winning the ball but all too often, immediately gave it away with a pass that either went straight to an England man or was intercepted.

Katalinski, Pavlovic and Paunovic were all equally guilty in this respect. But the boob of the night, if we overlook Maric throwing out right to Hall, came right at the end when a long 'hopeful' England pass down the left wing was picked up by Paunovic. True he saved a corner, but when he could have put his foot on the ball and had a look, or taken the easy way out and put the ball away for a throw-in, he inexplicably squared the ball inside.

He did it blind . . . without looking . . . and gave England their best real chance of the night.

Obviously Bojkov has real problems in defence but they exist too in midfield and up front. Stepanovic apart, the Yugoslavs were unconvincing in their approach play though the inexperienced Vladic deserves a chance to settle and Bajevic, out of action for a month, probably needed match practice.

But it is significant that several players have appeared on the right wing during Bojkov's relatively short reign—and Petkovic is not the answer. Only once, very late in the game did he even attempt to take on Lampard on the outside, which is the very essence of what wing play is about . . . turning the flank of the defence.

Petkovic was content to feint and juggle, then pull the ball back and cross high with his left foot. Wingers, like Dzajic, need the skill and courage to penetrate deep into the enemy defence, releasing passes from inside the penalty area to set up shooting positions. Otherwise you might as well not have wingers at all, for even full backs can stick in high crosses from the half way line.

WORLD CUP 1974

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco v. Senegal
3.12.72 Senegal v. Morocco

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria v. Guinea
12. 3.72 Guinea v. Algeria

Group 3

16/18.9.72 AR Egypt v. Tunisia
25. 9.72 Tunisia v. AR Egypt

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone v. Ivory Coast
29.10.72 Ivory Coast v. Sierra Leone

Group 5

15.10.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
22.10.72 Sudan v. Kenya

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Mauritius withdrew

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia v. Tanzania
3.12.72 Tanzania v. Ethiopia

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho v. Zambia
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 5, Ghana 2
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Group 11

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

Group 2

12.11.72 Guatemala v. El Salvador
19.11.72 El Salvador v. Guatemala

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras v. Costa Rica
10.12.72 Costa Rica v. Honduras

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti v. Puerto Rico
26. 9.72 Puerto v. Haiti

Group 6

Surinam v. Trinidad
Trinidad v. Surinam
Surinam v. Antigua
Antigua v. Surinam
Trinidad v. Antigua
Antigua v. Trinidad

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0
25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta v. Austria
29. 4.73 Hungary v. Austria
24. 5.73 Sweden v. Austria
13. 6.73 Hungary v. Sweden
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21/22.10.72 Switzerland v. Italy
22.10.72 Luxembourg v. Turkey
10.12.72 Turkey v. Luxembourg
13. 1.73 Italy v. Turkey
31. 3.73 Italy v. Luxembourg
15. 4.73 Luxembourg v. Switzerland
9. 5.73 Switzerland v. Turkey
26. 9.73 Switzerland v. Luxembourg
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland
25. 2.73 Turkey v. Italy

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
7. 8.72 Iceland v. Norway
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands v. Norway
19.11.72 Belgium v. Netherlands
22. 8.73 Netherlands v. Iceland
29. 8.73 Iceland v. Netherlands (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway v. Netherlands
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania v. Albania
8. 4.73 East Germany v. Albania
6. 5.73 Albania v. Rumania
27. 5.73 Rumania v. East Germany
6. 6.73 Finland v. East Germany
26. 9.73 East Germany v. Rumania
10.10.73 Albania v. Finland
14.10.73 Rumania v. Finland
3.11.73 Albania v. East Germany

Group 5

17.10.73 England v. Poland
6. 6.73 Poland v. England
24. 7.73 England v. Wales
15.11.72 Wales v. England
26. 9.73 Poland v. Wales
28. 3.73 Wales v. Poland

Group 6

9. 5.73 Northern Ireland v. Cyprus
29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus v. Bulgaria
14. 2.73 Cyprus v. Northern Ireland
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland v. Portugal
2. 5.73 Bulgaria v. Portugal
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
13.10.73 Portugal v. Bulgaria
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain v. Yugoslavia
19.11.72 Yugoslavia v. Greece
17. 1.73 Greece v. Spain
21. 2.73 Spain v. Greece
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland v. Denmark
2. 5.73 Denmark v. Czechoslovakia
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia v. Denmark
26. 9.73 Scotland v. Czechslovakia
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

Group 9

19. 5.73 France v. Eire
14.10.72 USSR v. France
13.10.73 France 1, USSR 0
16. 5.73 Eire v. France
18.10.72 Eire v. USSR
13. 5.73 USSR v. Eire

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

5. 7.73 Uruguay v. Colombia
24. 6.73 Colombia v. Uruguay
8. 7.73 Uruguay v. Ecuador
1. 7.73 Ecuador v. Uruguay
21. 6.73 Colombia v. Ecuador
28. 6.73 Ecuador v. Columbia

Group 2

7.10.73 Argentina v. Paraguay
16. 9.73 Paraguay v. Argentina
9. 9.73 Argentina v. Bolivia
23. 9.73 Bolivia v. Argentina
30. 9.73 Paraguay v. Bolivia
2. 9.73 Bolivia v. Paraguay

Group 3

17. 5.73 Peru v. Chile
3. 5.73 Chile v. Peru
12. 4.73 Peru v. Venezuela
31. 3.73 Venezuela v. Peru
15. 4.73 Chile v. Venezuela
24. 4.73 Venezuela v. Chile

ENVER MARIC
Yugoslavia

LEEDS UNITED 1972 F.A. CUP WINNERS